

2140 HYDE STREET

December 14, 1934
San Francisco, Calif.

My dear Mrs. Spree,

You were so very
sweet to send us the jam pot,

I really cannot thank you
enough. My husband has an
insatiable love of preserves so
you can see that it is
going to be extremely useful.

Ital- you should think of
me when you are having
so much delicious touches
me deeply. I have always

remembered your kindness and
thoughtfulness, and am so terribly
sorry. My deepest sympathy and
heartfelt gratitude, dear Mrs. Speer.

Affectionately

Elizabeth Petrov Clyde

CLASS OF SERVICE

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WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter

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Ship Radiogram

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Received at 19 Dean Street, Englewood, N. J.

ND57 18 DL=GREENSBORO VT 17 143P

DR ROBERT E SPEER=
ENGLEWOOD NJ=

MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE

DAY LETTER



OUR HEARTS LOVE TO YOU DEAR BOB AND TO MRS SPEER GOD IS
NOT DEAD NEITHER IS ELLIOTT=

ALLIE BARR.

(46).

Deepest Sympathy.

620

Dr. and Mrs. Vere Ellis Cooke

265 Cumberland Cor
Asheville N. C.

REV. R. F. CAMPBELL, D.D., PASTOR
MISS CORNELIA W. WILDS, CHURCH VISITOR AND SEC'Y

607

GEORGE H. WRIGHT, CLERK OF SESSION
OSCAR WHITE, TREASURER

The First Presbyterian Church

TWENTY-SIX CHURCH STREET

Asheville, N. C.

Sept. 17, 1934.

My dear Dr. Sheer :- The people of this Church and community have been deeply shocked by the death of your son. I want you to know of my personal sympathy with you and all the family. - May our Heavenly Father minister abundant comfort and grace.

Faithfully yours,
R. F. Campbell

619

303 SOUTH MAIN STREET
MARION, SOUTH CAROLINA

October 10, 1934

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Spier:-

It was such a shock to read in the papers of the sad death of your son. It was such a terrible tragedy I had heard Margaret and also Henry & Joe Deller speak of him so often when they were with us in Sycamore.

Ever since I learned of your great sorrow I have wanted to write to you to express my sympathy. Somehow though, the past few weeks have been very full and my note has been delayed, but I want you to know that you have been in my thoughts and prayers.

I feel so deeply for Margaret at this time, for I know how hard it was for me to be so far away when my mother passed away. But His

303 SOUTH MAIN STREET
MARION, SOUTH CAROLINA

presence is always with
us and He does give us the
peace and comfort that
we so sorely need.

With deepest sympathy, I am,
Sincerely yours,
Hallie Covington.

Most sincere and heartfelt
sympathy

1529

Mr
& Mrs. Duncan Dunbar Chaplin

1522 Thirty-first Street, N.W.
Washington D. C.

With love and sympathy
far, far beyond expression.

679

~~Miss Child~~

Elyse P. Cook

25 East Twenty-second Street



WITH SYMPATHY

My sympathy goes out to you
So tenderly today
And though there are no words
to tell
Just all that I would say
I do so long to have you feel
I'm very close to you
And know and understand so well
What you are passing through

from Mrs Dora Carbon
and family.

5 Bellvue Ave

Pat Lynch

LJ

607

Dear Mr. Speer,

I am so very sorry to hear of Elliott's death. Mrs. Campbell joins me in sending deepest sympathy to Mrs. Speer and you.

May God's comfort be
yours —

Sincerely,

Charles S. Campbell —

Sept. 17, 1934. New Haven

Conn

6/24/11

BYROAD COTTAGE
MORRISTOWN
NEW JERSEY

My Dear Mrs. Pees

I hesitate to write you for you will have such an outpouring of sympathy and love as to make my feeble attempts to say what I feel seem futile.

But as I am going almost immediately to California where my daughter is ill, I feel I must say just these few words before I go so

far away. Perhaps
there is no one who
could meet a trial
of this kind as you
could and yet with
all your faith - your
heart must be very
sore and bruised.

May you get some
comfort from the
love of your many,
many friends and
those you have helped
thro' the hard places
of life as well as from
the Great Source who

will sustain you
even thro these
dark hours.

Very sincerely with
much sympathy

Margaret A. Colgate

September nineteenth

2/24

Oct 4th

MRS. F. M. CHAPMAN
1158 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

1934

My dear dear Mr Speer:-

My husband and I have held you and Dr Speer constantly in mind since the tragic death of your splendid son, and have longed to see of some help and comfort!

I have not come written for I felt it would be more than you could bear to see dead young

Words of sympathy -
I well remember when
you Lou and my boy
Frank romped together,
and even as a boy he
had such poise and
gentleness that he must
then have been "about
his father's business" -

With much love and
understanding -

Fannie M. Chapman.

act,

2324 E. 1st St. Tucson Ariz. Oct 1-34

My dear Mrs Speer, -

Will you let me say how
grieved I was when I learned of Elliott's
death. It is so difficult to under-
stand. It seems like such a waste,
when he was so needed. However I
have learned, through my own terrible
loss, and through months of painful
invalidism, to trust the Father and
to know that He is "standing - there
amid the shadows, keeping watch

-above His own." I know -also that
you and Dr. Speer are being comforted
by that same Love, in spite of the
pain that is yours.

You have both meant so much
to me -during my life, that I can
not resist the opportunity of telling
you how sincerely grieved I have
been and how I have prayed
for you.

Sincerely,

Bertha Harris Conserce

ack.

25 So Prospect Street,
Verona, New Jersey.
Sept. 16, 1937

Dear Mrs. Speer:-

With our best
to friends, I am
sharing with you in your
'great loss! Your son's
'sudden death brings
grief to so many! —
Tho' his life was short, it
was full of blessings &
others. How large a circle
have been helped by you
and your family!

This must mean great
joy to you and to the
Spice -

With loving sympathy for
you both -

Most sincerely your friend

Julie Hall Chamberlain

(Her friend.)

ack.



Sept. 22 - 1934

DOCTORS HOSPITAL
EAST END AVE. AT 87TH ST.
NEW YORK

Dearest Aunt Emma -

You have been in my thoughts almost hourly since the day I read of Eliot's sudden death, and I have really wanted to write you before this, but even this I feel very well I find that I don't have much extra energy yet. It really was a terrible shock, to think that somebody as fine and wonderful as Eliot, with apparently no enemies, should be taken in such a way. What

you how much I love you and wish I
could do something to help.

Please don't bother to answer this, but
could you ~~ask~~ your secretary to send me
Marion's and Patty's addresses as I do want
to write them. Please extend my deepest
sympathy to Dr. Spear and Holly if she
still remembers me. With much love to
you - As Ever,

Gene Cuyler.

P. S. Thanks for being so sweet to mother
this summer.

a test of your faith. All I can do
is to give thanks that you have
something to meet such tragedy with!
So many people in sorrow have nothing
nowadays! I just know that God has
been your strength and will be in the
days to come.

As you may know, I have a sweet
little daughter born just a few days
before Eliot's death. She seems to
be thriving and I have done very
well too. Early next week she will
probably want to take me home, and
I will be glad to go as these two
weeks have seemed quite long in spots.

I shall want you to see my
new baby sometime when you get
back to Gramercy Park, and I do
want to see you and just Tell

ack,

Y. W. C. A.
Cleveland, O.
Sept 19.

Dear Mrs Speer,

I have
read about
your devastating
loss with grief
and am send-
ing this note
in love and
sympathy.

I want you
to know that
I am praying
that you may

have great
courage and
comfort these
hard days.

affectionately
Anna Clark.

4211

September 17-1934

My dear Mrs Speer-

There is nothing I can say which will make your loss easier to bear - but I want you & your family to know you have my love and prayers.

My father was taken from us in the same way - by a man who was unbalanced & had never seen him before - The fact that this is true - no reason nor purpose - seems to make it even less understandable.

Yours with affection

Anna E Caldwell

250 E 105 St.

ack.
✓

Anamosa Ia
Sept 17

Dear Mrs Speer -

With thousands of
others, my heart
goes out to you
in profound
sympathy and
love. For this
terribly tragic

taking off of your
very table and
truly consecrated
son.

From this quiet
little village home
where I seem to
be only an helpless
observer of this mad
old world's reckless
plunging and

blind selfishness
and sin, my mind
often goes back to
your sure faith
in God and the
ultimate realization
of His eternal
goodness.

Even in this
heart breaking,
unexplainable hour

I know that Elliott
Speer's mother and
father sense the
abiding Presence
and are strengthened
and comforted
there by.

Lovingly

Harriet A. Cunningham

Sept. 17 - 1934

ack.

My dear Mrs. Spear -

Please believe
me that I am one
of those countless
friends who share
the sense of outrage
and loss which
must be yours -

My husband
joins me in
extending our
sympathy to
you and Dr. Spear.
Always thinking
of you with much
admiration and
gratitude.

Most sincerely
Margaret Aronson Corbin

(Mrs. Franklin N. S.)
218 Estes Ave.
Chicago, Ill.

RIPSHIN FARM
TROUT DALE, VA.

auth.

My dear Mrs. Speer

I want to send you
a word of love and sympathy -
I know ~~that~~ you ^{superb} have
courage, which [→] have
witnessed with so much
admiration, will not fail

you now -

affectionately

Eleanor

Kopchaver

attn

Sept. 18. 1934

MRS. EDGAR S. COOK
311 SUMMIT AVENUE
REDLANDS, CALIF.

My dear Anna

From your envelope I see you &
our paper has reported the terrible news
of your dear Tom's death on
Friday night last. Both dear and
I wish him in our best love
and deepest sympathy. How real
his loss and how great
a tragedy! My dear one and
our deepest sympathy to you
and Mr. Spencer

With love to you
Cora D. Dade

YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

Member of the Young Women's Christian Association of the United States of America

318 WEST ARCH STREET
POTTSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

MISS ANNA I. BABCOCK
General Secretary

ack.

Sept. 17, 1934.

My dear Mrs. Speer,
The Board of
Directors of the Young Women's
Christian Association of Pottsville
wish to express their deepest
sympathy to you in your
great loss.

May every consolation and
blessing be granted to you
in your deep sorrow.

Sincerely yours,
Mrs. J. S. Crossman,
Corresponding Secretary

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Received at

GR34 17=NORRISTOWN PENN SEP 15 957A

MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE

DAY LETTER

DR AND MRS ROBERT E SPEER AND MRS ELLIOTT SPEER=

=MATHERMON SCHOOL NORTHFIELD MASS=

SHOCKED AT TRAGEDY BEYOND WORDS IS THERE ANYTHING WE COULD
DO TO HELP YOU WITH DEEPEST LOVE=

HELEN AND HORACE COLEMAN.

1030A

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Received at

GR34 8 5 EXTRA=ROCHESTER NY SEP 15 / VIA MS NEWYORK NY SEP 16
 DR ROBERT E SPEERS=CARE MRS ELLIOTT SPEER
 M THERMON MASS=

FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER
-----------	------------

=MY DEEPEST SYMPATHY=

=CLAYTON S COOPER.

808A.

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Received at

GR62 31=UD NEWYORK NY SEP 15 1039A

DR ROBERT E SPEER=

M THERMON BOYS SCHOOL NORTHFIELD MASS=

MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE

DAY LETTER

I WAS SHOCKED BEYOND EXPRESSION AT THE AWFUL TRAGEDY AT A TIME LIKE THIS WORDS FAIL I CAN ONLY OFFER OFFER MY DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO YOU MRS SPEER AND ALL THE FAMILY.

A W CURRIE.

1210P

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NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
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Received at

GR94 96 DL= PHILADELPHIA PENN SEP 15 1239P

DR ROBERT SPEER=

NORTHFIELD MAS=

MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER

THE SAD NEWS OF ELLIOTTS DEATH HAS JUST COME WE BOW IN DEEPEST SORROW AND PERPLEXITY BEFORE THIS MYSTRY AND ASSURE YOU AND MRS SPEER OF OUR CONSTANT INTERCESSION IN THESE DAYS OF YOUR GRIEF DR ROBINSON AND OUR WHOLE FAMILY OF WORKERS JOIN WITH ME IN LOVING SYMPATHY AND PRAY THAT THE INFLUENCE OF THE LIFE OF THIS DEVOTED BOY THROUGH HIS UNTIMELY PASSING MAY BE SANCTIFIED IN THE ANNALS OF NORTHFIELD AND FOR ALL TIME TO COME REMAIN AN ABIDING

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Received at

MINUTES IN TRANSIT

IN WHOSE

SOURCE OF INSPIRATION GODWARD TO THE STUDENTS
SERVICE HE LIVED AND DIED=

WILLIAM CHALMERS COVERT.

127P.

BY DIRECT WIRE FROM

1223-S

CLASS OF SERVICE

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GR18 38 DL XC=VN BRONXVILLE NY SEP 15 911A

MRS ROBERT F SPFFR=

CARE MRS ELLIOT SPEER NORTHFIELD MASS=

=WOULD LOVE TO HELP IN ANY WAY AND WILL COME TO NORTHFIELD
IMMEDIATELY IF I CAN BE OF ANY USE TRIED IN VAIN TO REACH
FATHER BUT TALKED TO GEORGE SAYS HE TOO IS AT YOUR
SERVICE LOVE=

=MARK.

.943A

57

JASPER E. CRANE
DU PONT BUILDING
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

Sept. 19th 1954

My dear Dr. Speer

May I express deepest sympathy to you and your family in your terrible loss and sorrow. With my profound respect for you over many years, I would earnestly wish to say some word of comfort or to do anything that might

be possible to be of
some assistance to
you.

Yours sincerely
Joseph D. Kane

MRS. S. H. CHESTER
MONTREAT, NORTH CAROLINA

Sept 16th, 1934

Our very dear friends:

We are distressed with you and for you. It comforts us to feel that we may be of some help to you by uniting our prayers with yours that the God of all comfort may be with you in all His gracious power to help, even as He has been with you and with us in other heart breaking experiences, and will be with us to the end.

With sincere affection and loving sympathy,

S. H. Chester

and Mrs Chester

57

634 E Wayne Ave
Wooster Ohio.

My dear Dr. Speer -

The papers full of the shocking
occurrence in Mt Harmon last
week. and we who know
you are distressed over what
it means to you personally & to
us all who hold the Lord's
work dear. Again my

dear brother Rodney's words
come to my mind - When it
seemed we can hardly under-
stand the strange & almost
irreparable loss - he said

Love Yours Very Sincerely
Marion J. Carlton

P.S. I was at the opening of M^r Herman
in the years of long ago - I was at the
Seeman in Northfield that year

"the work is God's and he can
carry it on - we are not any
of us necessary to it - It is
a privilege to be permitted to
share in His work" - may be
you can accept this view
as you see such a capable
& precious worker removed.

My prayer is for your
stricken heart and for the
wife & children who must
have to live on without the
dear Companion -

With loving sympathy.

Ans.
3.

Residence - Alpine, New Jersey

Post Office - Box 557, Englewood, New Jersey

Telephone - Closter 1170

Dear Uncle Rob:

Captain Clark who heads our police department in the park and in whom I have every confidence in knowing police methods has offered to go to Northfield to answer as everything possible is being done in Elliott's case.

We would like your permission, of course, before sending him.

Sincerely
Dad

Thursday.

57

DR. SAMUEL COCHRAN
620 WEST 116TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

September 15th
1934

Dear Bobby;

Margaret and I have been so shocked and distressed at the tragic news from Northfield. Our hearts go out to you and Mrs. Spier as well as to Elliott's wife. It is utterly unexplainable why so lovely and so useful a life should have been cut short. We realize how impossible it is for anyone to bring you help, but oh how we wish we could. I have been thinking of two other deaths of brave and noble men,

shot without cause, Jack Williams
and O. T. Logan, universally beloved
as was Elliott.

We know that God will comfort
you even if we can do so little.

Your affectionate friend
Samuel Cochran

57

WESTHAMPTON BEACH
LONG ISLAND

Sept 17. 24

Dear Bob.

In the face of such
a tragedy and such a loss
I realize how desperately
inadequate any human word
can be. But I cannot
forbear to tell you, what you
must be sure of, that you
and Mr. Spear and Elliott's
wife and children fill our
hearts and thoughts and
prayers.

Affectionately Yours

Henry Coatsworth

110 WEST 77TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

September 15th, 34.

Dear Mr. Speer,

My heart has been heavy all day as I think of the crushing sorrow that your dear son's tragic death has brought you all. It is dreadful, too, that we are all so far away and unable to render the smallest little loving service. The only thing we could do was to meet in prayer and ask God to be with you all during the dark hours of pain and bewilderment. I do not think anyone in the two Boards, or the smaller ones for

letters to any list of friends,
or do errands, &c.

My deepest sympathy
to you and Mr. Speer,

Most sincerely yours
Johannis G. Cornell.

That matter, was missing from the meeting. You have said many times that we are one large family - certainly one realized this morning that we are, and that you, as the head of the family, are very near to us all.

I am thankful that you were at home and could be with Mrs Elliott and Mrs Speer to comfort and help them by your presence.

Please call on me if there is anything that I can do - send out

226

16 East 96th Street.
New York

Dear Dr. Speer -

I hasten to send to you
and Mrs. Speer, my wife's love
and sympathy. We are stun-
ned by the news of Elliott's
death. The whole thing
seems unbelievable.

We wish to join the flood
of sympathy and support
which will pour in upon
you from your host of loyal

friends—

most sincerely

Hugh Chaplin.

57
My dear Spear: It is not necessary to say that I was greatly shocked to read of the tragical death of your son. Let me assure you of my sympathy in your great sorrow. You have had much sorrow in your life, but with your experience in the Christian life and your development, with the unswerving trust in God which you have always exercised, I am sure you will meet this experience with heroic faith. God promises us "grace sufficient" for our need. Your need is great, but his grace is correspondingly great.

With kindest regards,

Very cordially yours,

Wash., D.C.,
Sept. 16, 1934.

Geo. M. Cummings.

1628 J St., S.E., Washington, D.C.

512

The Broadway Tabernacle,
Broadway and 56th Street.

Sept 15, 1934

Dear Dr. Spear,

I have just seen the notice of Elliott's death. I know no details - save that they must be tragic - but wanted at once to stretch out a hand of sympathy.

Elliott was about my age. We had worked together at student conferences and on committees. The circumstances of his death are tragic in themselves but far more tragic to us who knew him is the fact that he is taken out of this world and its need. I wanted you to know that in the midst of many who will be horrified only at the surface occurrence, there are many of us who grieve not because of "how" he died but "that" he is gone.

Time and energy will be absorbed
for you on many things. Please do me the
favor of not attempting to acknowledge
this note. It is written not to add
to your burden but to help. Some day
we may meet and might then speak of it.
To day you need all your powers for
more important things.

I'm thankful for what he was and
with deep sympathy.

Sincerely yours.

Allan Chalmers.

Sept 16-1934

602

Dear Cousins Rob & Emma.

What can I say that may be a comfort in this sudden sorrow of yours; yet human sympathy is sweet.

My heart goes out to you in love - Be assured I share in your heavy trial & want you to know you are in my thoughts & prayers. With Deepest Sympathy
Eda Bee Coan

507

WILLIAM CHALMERS COVERT
WITHERSPOON BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA

Friday

My dear Robert

I am sure you are conscious of the great body of prayer that now is going up for you, the speaker and the girls in your sorrow. At each one of the large meetings of Presbyterian men on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday night in Butler, Shenandoah and Beaver Falls praying, your name was mentioned and prayers offered. Your meeting with deepest trust and unbroken ~~unbroken~~ ^{equanimity} this great trial is giving strength to all of us as we too come into the pain and mystery of life.

I am sorry indeed not to have you at my side as I make exit from my secular task next Tuesday evening. For I receive with satisfaction your encouraging words as I begin in almost total ~~equanimity~~ the perplexing but happy work more than 120 years ago. Now come on and join me in the liberty and opportunities of retirement with a purpose!

Affectionately
W.C.C.

017

MRS. FRANCIS POWELL CHEEK
226 NORTH FOURTH STREET
DANVILLE, KENTUCKY

Sept. 27, 1934

Dear Dr and Mrs Steer:

For many days you have been constantly in my thoughts. I sorrow with you. And, not only I, but all the Church at home and abroad is sorrowing because of your loss — so beloved are you to us (all). When 'one' member suffers all suffer with it.

You and your children have given yourselves so freely to the cause of right-conscience. That it grieves me

to know that you must be
(with others) victims of
a selfish, sick society where
crime is rampant.

MRS. FRANCIS POWELL CHEEK

226 NORTH FOURTH STREET

DANVILLE, KENTUCKY

May our Lord Himself
be your comfort and strength.

I thank you for the prompt
response to my letter. Mary
Ashby Cheek (Elizabeth's "Auntie")
was home last week and for
Mother Cheek's 80th birthday
and Elizabeth returned east
with her.

Very sincerely yours

(Mrs F. P.) Sadie Taylor Cheek

67

Apartment H-E.
30-26-29th St.,
Astoria, L. I.

My dear Mr. + Mrs. Speed:

It is hard to believe what I have read in the papers of the great sorrow which has come to you, and I cannot let any more time go by without writing to let you know how much I feel for you in this tremendous loss. There are no words to express it and I want you to know that my prayers are for

you constantly. I know you will
be strengthened, comforted and
guided by the One who cares for
us all.

Please remember me to each
and all and believe me.

Sincerely-
Katharine Baker

Sept. 18-1934

577

INSTITUTE OF PACIFIC RELATIONS
HONOLULU HAWAII

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Lee
Massachusetts
Sunday

Dear Speer

This word of your sons
mysterious going has come
as a great shock to us all.

How well I remember meeting
him in France & watching the
way in which he faced the
problems of that baffling period.

I've been thankful to have
been able to follow his
unfolding career ever since.

We hope that the richness
and permanence of his life

will be a constant
source of thanksgiving
to you all.

affectionately

Edward Carter

67 The Claymore Apartments,
2106 St. Charles Avenue,
New Orleans, La.
Sept. 19, 1934.

Dear Dr. Speer,

I am much distressed
over the sad death of your
precious son. The little
knew when you delivered
your splendid lectures in
New Orleans; that so
great sorrow was to
come to you and your

dear wife and family and
loved ones.

Mrs. Campbell & I send
you and your dear wife
and family our love
and deepest sympathy
in your great sorrow.

We pray that God may
comfort you all and
give you of his rich grace
to help you in your hour
of need. Affectionately,

(The Rev.) John Campbell

017

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
240 GLEN STREET
GLENS FALLS, NEW YORK

February 20: 24

Dear Mr. [Name],

Mrs. [Name] and I would like to thank you for the
of your [Name] who put in [Name] [Name] and [Name]
[Name] and [Name]. [Name] [Name] [Name] [Name] [Name]
[Name] in the [Name] of your [Name] [Name].

[Name] [Name] of [Name] and the [Name] of a [Name] [Name]
[Name] [Name], a [Name] [Name] [Name] [Name] [Name]
[Name] - all the [Name] [Name] [Name].

Sincerely,
[Name] [Name]

57

Mrs. S. M. Clement

The Homestead
East Aurora

Dear Dr. Mott.

I just
want to assure you and
Mrs. Mott of my deep sym-
pathy and affectionate thoughts
in your tragic bereavement.

Yours very sincerely -
Carolyn J. Aronoff.

Thursday.

ack.

C. L.

Miss Cushier

Deep & loving sympathy
in your great affliction.

308 West 22nd Street

ack

815, FIFTH AVENUE

September 27, 1934.

Darling Emma:

Your precious little letter brought you closer than ever this morning. And that beautiful ^{letter} from Rob to me written on my birthday has touched me more deeply than I could possibly express to you.

I came down to do some business chores and am going back tomorrow morning to Hartford. Dear Jimmy will probably have to be there two or three weeks more. The doctor feels that he is recovering in an amazing way. Almost the first thing he said when I arrived was, "Vera, neither you nor I were with Rob and Emma at Northfield." And then he proceeded to tell me how this unthinkable, unbelievable grief had come to you, whispering as he was through all his bandages.

It is just too wonderful that Jim lived through that accident. And how he does love you and Rob and all your precious family. It isn't just the children, dear. I know there has never been such glorious gallantry as Rob's and your letters express.

It would be almost Heaven to see you in Hartford. I do not want you to make the effort, however, to come there. I had planned to motor over to see you with Edna Mason the end of this week, so I am glad to know beforehand that you are not to be at Rock Ledge. Perhaps next week we can telephone and make some plans. I heard through Rob's office this morning that they think he is going to stay in the country a little longer. Do keep him there in the garden with the lillies and hills all about you.

Always devotedly,

Vera. —

P.S. 10 P.M. - Have talked with Jim on the phone!!! Imagine: He couldn't lift his head

2 days ago! Heart Darling

Emma - In Reading of you all

So constantly & with such love

v v.

ack.

% Y. W. C. A.

N. Carolina & Pacific Am.
Atlantic City, New Jersey

Sept. 16.

Dearest Emma:- I received the
most terrible shock when I picked
up W-Day's New York Times and saw
the account of Elliot's death.
My heart went out to you in
prayer for you for I know only
too well what you are suffering.
I must send these lines of love
& affection to you, for my heart
aches for you and I long to
see you. The last talk I had
with Elliot was at Northfield
when I was there for the Federal

3

am now much better & will soon be able to be at my work again I hope. I long so to bring young people to a new discovery of Jesus Christ. Just now I am writing a new book for Scribner's and am getting in touch with people for spiritual conversation.

I long to see you again & hope I may when I come to New York again. It is only the way this Association is putting such emphasis on religious work. They are going fine service. They have a lovely building centrally located and can have almost 100 people here as boarders.

Now I must mail this to you. I shall be praying much for you and loving you with all my heart. What a surprise it must be for Elliot to burst into heaven & see our Lord Christ. Blessings on you always.

Your devoted friend,

Theresa Childs,

Miss Geary sends love & sympathy to you.

Council of Churches Com. in Evangelism.
 We had a long talk together about
 the way students could be
 brought into a spiritual experience
 and I was so thrilled by your
 boy's earnestness and spiritual
 yearning. What a calamity—
 all this will be to the schools
 in Northfield!

This Sunday I have been
 here in Atlantic City—at the S. W. C. A
 sometime resting. My doctor
 wanted me to come here because
 of overwork last year in speaking
 at religious forums for young
 people all over the country. I

Oct.

SUNSET RIDGE FARM
NORFOLK, CONN.

Blessed Emma: -

" You will carry
on just as you always
have. that I know -

May the Comfort and
love which you have
for me bestowed upon
others relay to bless
you in the home you need -

You will be Sustained.
dear, dear friend.

So much tender
loving thought goes to
you and yours from
all of us —
Mary



with a /

My dear Mrs Spence -

Having so often
thought of you, in
these past weeks, I

feel that I would
like to send this
line of sympathy
and affection -

Always most sincerely,

Virginia Campbell -

ack.

September 27-

Dear Mrs. Speer :-

Just a line to tell
you how much you are in
my heart these sad days
and to let you know of my
hopes and prayers that the
strength which you have
shared so often with us all
may be yours in good
measure - that strength
which comes from the real
consciousness of the
soul's true home - which
are underneath. Lovingly

us with love to meet each
day as it comes.

With much love and
sympathy from

Elyse L. Chamberlain

ackd.

148 East 48th Street
New York City.

My dear Mrs. Speer:-

The hearts of your many
friends at "600" have been made
very sad by the tragic news
of your great sorrow.

I am sure you know that
our loving thoughts and earnest
prayers are with you

and your dear ones these
most difficult days.

May His Holy Spirit give you
comfort and strength -

With deepest sympathy
your sincere friend
Julia F. Capron

Monday -

Lakeville.

My dear Grand Mrs Speer,

Our hearts and thoughts have been with you since we read of your son's tragic death and we all unite in deepest sympathy for you and all your family.

I know the Doctor would join in this if he were here.

Yours very sincerely,

September 14th 1934 Lillie Cadman.

Ann
25

Dear Ann

Sept 25, 1934.

My dear Robert.

What can one friend say
to his friend in her presence of so deep
and tragic a grief as you are passing
through when that he stands
in some measure in the fellowship
of his sorrow. The circumstances
of recent years enable me to say
this to you with sincerity.

I can only add that as you ^{feel} pass
through these deep ^{and} ^{tragic}
affliction I am joining with you
and greatly value your friendship

in looking you constantly in the
face of membranes in our approaches
to the knowledge of God and in our earnest
petition that ever His word to the
world would be to you His own best
word of God in submitting His
deep affection to you.

Very sincerely and affectionately

Wm. F. O'Connell

with

19 East 57th St.
N. Y. C.

Dear, dear Mrs. Spess -

My heart has been going out to you and Dr. Spess thru this very tragic time, & feel lost for words as I just cannot conceive how this could happen to you both, and your very dear family -

I know you are being given strength

from on High to carry us but
I know I am only one of many
many friends who wish they
could help carry the burden and
be of some comfort -

All my love and deep sympathy

Tendly

Agnes Cole

With deepest
sympathy.

Mrs. Frank F. Carter

ack.

990 Madison Avenue

12/17.

Pinehurst,
Moorestown, N.J.

Dear Mrs. Speer -

I cannot express
to you what we all
feel over the dreadful
tragedy that has
taken Elliott.

It has been a terrible
shock + our hearts
have been overflowing
in sorrow + sympathy
for all his dear ones.
Why such things

hold + at other places with them +
feel it was a privilege & inspiration
to know him as we did.

From a letter, I have heard from
a boy at Northfield, I know that Eldred
has left a profound impression on
the school & has been an influence
that those young people will always
carry with them.

At this time a little verse comes to me
which says -

"God make me brave - Life brings

sees blinding things

Help me to keep my sight.

Help me to see aright.

That out of the dark - comes light."

Sending you + Dr. Speer our very
deep sympathy -

Most sincerely yours.

Marguerite P. Cooper

P.S. I am so sorry - I do not know
your home address

Wednesday

happen to the best &
finest people is a
question none can
answer.

Not only is his loss
mourned by those
nearest & dear but
by the community at
large where such
 sterling character &
 leadership is so
sadly lacking today.

My husband & I
children & I deeply
treasure the times
we have spent in
Hally & Ed's house -

Comforted of God

A Sermon preached by the
REV. HENRY EVERTSON COBB
At the Collegiate Church
West End Avenue and 77th Street
New York City
October 26, 1930

Printed by request

OLIVER ELLSWORTH COBB
February 3, 1895—May 28, 1922

ELIZABETH PENROSE ALLEN
April 13, 1921—November 11, 1928

DOROTHY PENROSE ALLEN
October 31, 1892—October 12, 1930

2 Corinthians 1. 4. "The comfort wherewith we ourselves
are comforted of God."

I am going to speak this morning about Comfort—the comfort of God. I have spent these past two weeks trying to think this thing through. I have been trying to let God interpret to me the meaning of sorrow. And—do not misunderstand me when I say that only God can do this. Only God can enter the secret chamber of our souls where sorrow dwells. One is deeply moved by letters of sympathy. The grasp of friendly hands means much when one is passing through his valley of Baca. This is especially true when brave words come from those who have gone through this same desolate valley before him, who have wet it with their tears, and yet have come out victoriously into the green pastures and quiet waters.

Yet that is not enough. I have had brought home to me the sense of my own utter inadequacy in my ministry of comfort. How little I understood of what you were suffering. And if I had understood how little I had to give. Much as we may love another there is a barrier between personalities that we can never penetrate—a chasm we can never cross. Paul in his great chapter on the Resurrection says that we differ as one star differs from another star—is millions and millions of miles from its nearest neighbor—cannot understand what is going on in that distant point of light—knows that if people live there they speak another language, look at the universe from another angle than we. So each of us has some quality of spirit which sets us utterly and hopelessly apart. There are so many things we share in common—our outward experiences seem so much the same—birth and death, joy

and sorrow, sunshine and shadow—that we are not aware of this fundamental unlikeness until something happens that strikes at the innermost center of our life. Then we know that no one, not our nearest friends, can enter the Gethsemane of our secret agony. They must wait outside the gate while we watch and pray alone. Only One from whom we draw all our life, who is in every way spirit of our spirit, One in whom we live and move and have our being, can understand. We must get to Him to find the strength and hope and courage without which we cannot take up our life and go on.

Of course that would have to be. We never could find that wonderful combination of sympathy and strength which is “comfort” in anyone who doesn’t know the meaning of Life, to whom what we call a mystery is no mystery, and who is so one with ourselves that he is sharing our experience completely—suffering as we suffer, knowing all and yet seeing through our impenetrable night of ignorance with a sureness of the light beyond that inspires our courage. There is One Man, and only one in all the records of our human race, who answers to this need—Jesus Christ the Son of God. To whom else may we go but to him. O Lord and Master of us all! Thou hast the words of eternal life!

Think how he stood amid all the world’s sorrow. Think how he felt it. For him that barrier of which I have spoken was broken through. His soul was part and partner of every soul. He needed no confession, no recital of what was crushing human hearts. “He needed no one to tell him,” is what we read of him, “for he knew what was in the hearts of men.” One of the old prophets speaks of

him as the "Man of Sorrows, acquainted with grief." That title does not refer to his own sorrows. He had reason enough to weep. But we never read of his weeping for himself. He wept at the grave of Lazarus, but there were no tears when he faced suffering and death for himself in the Garden of Gethsemane. There was agony and bloody sweat, but no tears. He had compassion on the multitude, but he never pitied himself. So much of our sorrow is self-pity. "What shall I do? How can I live without her?" cries your stricken soul. Jesus never said anything like that. Always there was the supreme consciousness that, no matter who might leave him, he would never be alone, never deserted by his heavenly Father. You never read of his seeking for sympathy—never but once. That was when he asked certain of his closest friends to watch and pray for him while he entered into the agony of Gethsemane. They failed him. Human comfort broke down. He did not need it. The Father was with him—that was enough. And when he had conquered in his lonely fight and returned to find them sleeping, there was no word of rebuke—only pity for them in their weakness and weariness. No, what he would have his disciples share with him was not his sorrow, but his joy, his peace. "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you." "That my joy might remain in you and that your joy may be full." It was as though the Man of Sorrows had never known a sorrow. So completely, so strongly, so joyously he went on his way.

And yet the sorrows of other men, the sorrows of the whole world were pouring in upon his heart. There were no barriers to keep them out. That word about him that he was "touched with a feeling of our infirmities"—that he "bore our sins and carried our sorrows" implies that he suffered as though *he* were the sinner, *he* the sufferer. In taking upon himself our human nature he became a

part of the pulsing life of the whole world. His heart throbbed to every human heart-beat. Wherever there was suffering or sorrow, he was drawn to it. He knew that there was sorrow in the home at Bethany, though he was miles away—knew it before they sent word to him. He felt all the hopeless misery of that friendless man at the pool of Bethesda, and hurried down from the Temple to bring him aid. Again and again he would break away from an exacting crowd to carry hope and healing to some desolated household. How could he have endured the weight of the world's sorrow? Not one of us could bear a millionth part of it. I have no doubt that these barriers between our spirits which keep us from fully sensing the sorrow of others are a bit of God's merciful providence. I go to a cemetery and stand by a certain grave. My heart is full. It could not make room for anything more. Even a word of sympathy, a kindly touch are more than I could endure. And yet all around me are innumerable graves. Every one of them represents just such an experience as mine. Suppose that all that sorrow, all that anguish were poured in on my own soul! What a mercy of God that I cannot comprehend it—cannot take it in. We could not live under the weight of the world's sorrow. We can hardly take up the ordinary tasks of life under the weight of our own. And yet Jesus had that whole intolerable load laid upon him, and he bore it steadily, without a faltering step—carried it through the sweet fields of Galilee, and the dark streets of Jerusalem—on and on. It lay upon his heart as the Cross lay upon his shoulder when he took the road to Calvary. He bore our sins and carried our sorrows, and there—lifted up toward heaven—he put all the weight of it into the keeping of God.

We have such a One—touched with the feeling of our infirmities. What can he tell us? How can he give us comfort—the courage and strength and faith that we need to carry on?

1. First, we have the comfort of his own attitude toward the world's sorrow. It did not shake his faith in the love of the heavenly Father—not for one minute. He saw a little bird fluttering to earth, stricken, dying. No one regarded the death of a sparrow. "Your heavenly Father knows," said Jesus. "He cares. And you—you and I—are of more value to him than many sparrows." "Your heavenly Father careth." You go out of the room where your loved one has fallen asleep—out into the street. The world goes on its accustomed way—the stream of traffic does not halt for a moment—there is light laughter and it smites you like a blow. No one cares. The sun shines as it did yesterday. The birds sing. Nature does not care.

"How can ye sing, ye little birds,
And I sae weary, fu' of care?"

If your trouble finds no response in your own street, no echo in Nature, how can God take note of it? Oh, ye of little faith! God is not far away. He is closer to us than any man, even our dearest friend—nearer than Nature. It is in Him, not in Nature, not in our human kind, that we live and move and have our being. Closer is He than the very breath we draw. He is not far from every one of us. He is your Father, said Jesus. "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth." Can a mother forget her child? God must know. God may not forget. God cares. "No one can pluck you out of my

Father's hand." Oh, do not draw down the shades in the chamber of death, as though the last word had been spoken and the last hope fled. Let in the light, that it may speak of the new day that has dawned for your beloved and will sometime dawn for you, when all the shadows will have fled away. Have the faith of Jesus. Have faith in God.

2. And then it must surely be a comfort to know that Jesus himself suffered. He could not escape suffering. When he took upon himself the form of man he accepted the lot of our mortality. When he came to earth he must die as all men did. God did not interfere when they smote him, tortured him, hung him on a cross. It may be as Ugo Bassi said in his Sermon in the Hospital:

“When God formed
This ball of earth among His other balls,
And set it in His shining firmament,
Between the greater and the lesser lights,
He chose it for the Star of Suffering.”

Through the pain of travail we enter our life on earth and by suffering and death we leave it. Why we cannot know. It is all a mystery. Jesus did not explain it. I think he must have known, but his lips were sealed. I think it must be among the things of which he wished to speak, but knew that even his nearest believers could not understand, could not “bear” it. As the light of the sun must be tempered by the atmosphere of the earth, or it would blind us, so there is knowledge we earth-bound mortals could not comprehend. If these things were clearly revealed they would be our undoing. But this Jesus knew, that when he came to earth it was to suffer. It was his Father's will that he should suffer. He saw, what we do not see, the meaning of suffering and that, by suffering, he should fulfil the purpose of God and redeem the world.

But there is another fact we must remember. We see only that little part of life which is bounded by the eastern horizon of birth and the western horizon of death. He saw it all. He saw life as eternal. "He knew that he came from God and went to God." This earthly life is just a little span, linking eternities. And so Jesus never spoke of death as we do—as the end. He called it "sleep." "Our friend Lazarus sleeps." "The little damsel is not dead; she sleepeth." The doctor says to you, "It is all over." It is not "all over." Death is the moment of awaking.

"Why be afraid of death,
As though your life were breath?
Death but unseals your eyes—
O glad surprise!"

"Your suffering which is but for a moment," said Paul, "brings you a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." Let us try to efface this little narrow view of our life, and think of it as something that reaches up and on, to come to its flower of perfect beauty in the Father's house and the dear Presence of the One who promised to prepare a place for us there and to receive us when we reach home.

3. And there is just one more source of comfort in Christ of which I will speak. He overcame death. He conquered the conqueror. He showed what he could do when he stood by the bed of Jairus' little daughter, and by the bier of the son of the widow of Nain, and by the tomb of Lazarus. Death could not hold him. He rose out of Joseph's new tomb. The question rises, Why did he not abolish it altogether? Why must Death be the last enemy to be destroyed? Why did he not destroy it once

and for all? That is his secret. Remember how he regarded Death as such a little thing—only an incident—a brief moment of sleep—not a thing to dread—only a dark passage through which we go into the light of a new day, with himself to pilot us and bring us through. An enemy? yes; but an enemy subjugated, compelled to do the command of a Father whose will it is that not one of His little ones should perish.

“Death is so brutal!” said a friend to me. So it seems to us. It seems to us so cruel, so unfeeling—sweeping on its path of destruction recklessly—taking toll of the fairest and best—leaving unscathed those of whom the world might well be rid. Watts has painted a picture of this grim figure, standing before the door of a home, and Love (a dimpled, baby boy) trying vainly to bar his way—and Love’s wing is broken in the hopeless fray. There is youth, cut down when the vision of the beauty of the earth has just dawned, and all the possibilities of life are reflected in its eager eyes. There is the sweet young mother who has just looked upon the face of the child God has given her and begun to weave her dreams of love about it, and now must leave the training of the child to other hands. Yes, Death is brutal. Death is cruel. But remember that it is an impersonal thing. It is just one of the forces of Nature, unsympathetic, unyielding, which cut straight across our desires, defeat our plans, crush our hopes. If God should intervene, that would set back the whole course of Nature, and we would be far worse off. We could not live with certainty about anything. Brave souls do not surrender to the shadow and the mystery and the darkness. They hold fast to the things they know. We know that all things work for the good of those who love God. We know that God can take these natural

enemies of ours and make them our servants. We know that Death itself cannot separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Into our stillness comes the word of Christ to comfort and sustain our souls. "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

Is death a thing to dread? Not for those who undergo it. There are those for whom it is a welcome deliverance from pain. And for those who have thought of it with terror, when the hour has come to go, there is a merciful oblivion. God puts His gentle fingers on their eyelids. "I am so tired," they say, and they fall asleep. "So He giveth His beloved sleep," and when they waken to the new day the fear is all behind them. It is we who suffer, not they. Our grief is not for them but for ourselves. We are lonely, but they are safe. They are in the company of those who love them as we loved them and have been waiting for the "knitting severed friendships up." Isn't there an element of selfishness in all our sorrow? Can we not bear our loneliness a little more bravely in the thought of what has come to them?

There is much that is left.

(a) There is memory. It is true that to remember is to suffer. It is to know again the agony of our loss. But surely we should not wish to forget. I cannot understand how anyone should say, "I must find some diversion, some distraction; I must not let myself remember." For there is a gracious ministry, a heavenly ministry, in sorrow. The depth of our loss is the measure of our sense

of God's gift to us in those whom we have loved and lost awhile. Is any price too great to pay for the priceless love that was ours, even for so brief a time?

"Tis better to have loved and lost
Than never to have loved at all."

No, do not try to forget. You can grow hard and thankless if you forget. Cherish the memory though it brings you pain. Don't let life efface the lovely pictures of the past. Hold them as your priceless treasure. Our treasure laid up in heaven does not cease to be our treasure still. Sometime we shall find it again. When we hear these words spoken over our dear ones, "The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away"—let us think not only of what we have lost. Let us thank God for what He *gave*. And what God gives nothing on earth can ever really take away.

(b) And there is more than memory. There is hope. Hope is the anchor that enters within the veil. Hope is forged from memory. It is all the beautiful past quickened and renewed in the light of eternity. What has been shall be again. If not that, then be sure it will be something better. Memory recalls so vividly a little boy and little girl, dancing hand in hand down a country lane, with the dappled sunlight falling on them through the over-arching trees, laughing in their joy of living and loving—inseparable companions ever—growing up together in such beauty and grace as drew the love of everyone to them. I would never have the picture fade. Time would dim it. That bewitching age of childhood is so soon gone. But hope makes it eternal. It is hope that catches up that memory and helps me to the vision of a fairer country than earth knows,

“Where everlasting spring abides
And never-withering flowers.”

Hand in hand they go again in the unfading sunshine, and there is a little child between them. I can have no fear for them where they are. There is nothing that can hurt, or harm, or destroy. As I look back there is nothing I would have different. Memory does not bring one cloud into the sky. Could I ask anything better than what God has given me? Could I pray for anything better than God has given them?

O Lord, by all Thy dealings with us, whether of joy or pain, of light or darkness, let us be brought to Thee. Let us value no treatment of Thy grace simply because it makes us happy or because it makes us sad, because it gives us or denies us what we want; but may all that Thou sendest us bring us to Thee, that knowing Thy perfectness, we may be sure in every disappointment that Thou art still loving us, in every darkness that Thou art still enlightening us, and in every enforced idleness that Thou art still using us; yea, in every death that Thou art giving us life, as in His death Thou didst give life to Thy Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Phillips Brooks.

ack.

MRS. ARTHUR W. COURTNEY
292 WEST FOURTH STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Spear.

We cannot begin to tell you how shocked and grieved we are at the tragedy you have just experienced.

We feel a very personal bereavement in Elliot's passing and a deep sorrow for you and all of his family. Please feel that you have our sympathy and prayers and although you probably won't need me, I want

you to feel that you can call
on me to do anything for you
that I can.

With the love and deep
sympathy of both Mr Courtney
and my father Mr Le Fivre, I am

Yours affectionately
Edna L Courtney.

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THE LINDENS
ROSEMONT, PENNSYLVANIA

My dear Mrs. Speer,

Please accept
my heartfelt sympathy.

Yours very sincerely,

May E. Brunner.

Sept. 18.

a dr.

42 Dana Place -
Englewood -
New Jersey.

Dear Mrs. Speer,

I want
you to know that
Bob & I are thinking
of you & Mr. Speer
with deep & loving
sympathy - We know
that you are going
through the greatest
sorrow, - all of you,
& our hearts are
full of grief for you -

We both send you our
love & deepest sympathy.

Affectionately yours,

Julie C. Cory -

September 19th -

We know that you
are, all of you,
brave & unshaken
in this trouble. I
think of you as
among those who
can say with the
Psalmist, "—yet will
we not fear,
though the earth be
removed, though the
mountains be carried into
the midst of the sea!"

May the blessing
and comfort of
God be with you—

ack.

27 Fern Street

Auburndale, Mass.

September 27, 1934

Dear Mrs. Speer,

I want you and
Mr. Speer to know that
I should like to be invited
among your friends
and that you are daily
in my thought and prayer.
So in spite of the fact that
I know you must be
receiving many, many
letters I venture to send
mine, too, for I know

that friends do help.

I have often thought
with joy of the work that
your oldest son and
daughter have been
doing. The memory of
your son's life will be
an inspiration to the
many young lives he
has already touched.

May our Father of all
comfort speak His own
word of special strength
to your very deep need.

Very sincerely yours,
Helen B. Calder

THE SANITARIUM AND CLINIC
CLIFTON SPRINGS
NEW YORK

FWS
Oct 31, 1934.

My dear Robert -

On the eve of All Saints Day -
with its sweet & precious memories -
I am moved to send you my love
and the assurance of my constant
thought of you & your in
your days & get through last service.

My sincere & affectionate
love.

W. J. Hamilton

ack.

16 September

My dearest Mrs Spur

I just haven't any words to tell you the grief and sorrow that this morning's news has brought to us. For thirty years I've loved the darling little lad. I knew so long ago and all these later years I've so rejoiced

in the man he had
become. It is hard to
realize that his service
here should be over so
soon — but how well
he has done it! And
there is larger work that
he is prepared to take
up on the other side.

from the bottom of my heart
and prayers for comfort
for you all in this
terrible grief -

Always yours

Brother Lewis Cochran

Wm Reps

Barbizon

ack.

Dear Mrs. Sprou -

You have been constantly in my thoughts since I read of the tragic and untimely death of your son, and I have realized, with Mabel here, how poignant would be her grief for you.

I should not have used the word 'for' - rather she would be sorrowing with you. I imagine, these days, the realization of how close your friends have come, has made life more bearable. All over the world you are in people's thoughts and hearts. I would be

glad if you could think of
me as a friend, and realize
that I, too, am grieving with
you and your family.

Most sincerely yours

Anna L. Gately

2926 Van Dyke Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio
Sept. 23rd. 1937

Dear Dr. Spurr:-

I cannot easily tell you how very much your beautiful note has meant to me, for I know so well how truly understanding your sympathy is.

Dear Kurt. I feel very keenly your tragic loss, & his letter to you was one of the very few he attempted to write during the seven long months of his illness.

Please remember me
most kindly to the
Deer - I wish so much
that I knew you both
- that you might
be the understand
that my heart as well
as Ben's, was just
broken for you.

How impossible it
would be to "carry on"
without our heavenly
Father's comfort &
tender care!

Most sincerely
Mabel Phyllis Bone

659 Newark Ave.

November 14th 1934

50

Sincere sympathy
Grace A. Cary.

With my deepest
sympathy - more
than I can tell you -

from

Alb. W. Clark



A Ship Sets Sail

"I am standing upon the seashore. A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength and I stand and watch her until at length she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come down to mingle with each other. Then someone at my side says, 'There! She is gone.' Gone where? Gone from my sight—that is all.

"She is just as large in mast and hull and spar as she was when she left my side, and just as able to bear her load of living freight to the place of destination. Her diminished size is in me, not in her; and, just at the moment when someone at my side says 'There! She is gone!' there are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices ready to take up the glad shout, 'There she comes!' AND THAT IS DYING."

*From
Allen Clark.*

E. Speer

Luis L. A. César

Cambridge, Mass.,
October 15, 1934.

OCT 17 1934

MS

(Care of Dr John Mackay,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.)

Rev. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr Speer:--

Although the name which subscribes this letter, may not mean to you, I took the liberty of addressing a few lines, in the hope that God will comfort you in your great sorrow and loss.

It was a great shock to hear of the terrible deed of violence against the precious life of one whose work for the Youth of his own country promised much from such a noble Son of an illustrious Father.

Why did God permit such violence and terrible deed? This is a mystery which no one can fully understand, but we can leave it all into the hands of our Heavenly Father. In His wisdom He permits such violence, but in His own time He will use even such events for the advancement of His Truth, and glory of His Name. It's hard but even through our tears and sorrow we can say with Paul: "All things work together for good to them that love God".

It is said that a carpet maker always works from the reverse side. Watching his work, what disharmony of designs, what confusion of colors! Can he bring harmony out of such confusion? Yes. When the work is finished we can admire such beauty, such harmony of plans and designs! May it not be that the Great Creator of the Universe in His wisdom and time will reveal to us some day the harmony of His plans and ways. I believe so, and that some day we will receive ample compensation for all the heart ache and tears of this present life.

I can sympathize with you in your loss. Five years ago, when returning from an open air meeting in my city, I beheld the form of a beloved child — a boy three years old — in flames. He was the most loving, and precisely the one that can caress me most when I went to that service. In that terrible experience, I found comfort in God's word. I received a new meaning to the words of Paul: "For me to die is gain".

Praying God's richest blessing,
and heavenly comfort upon you and
your dear ones,

I am yours in His Name,

Luis L. A. César.

The Fellowship of the Spirit

(Phil. 2:1-2)

(An Interdenominational fellowship of Christians, united in the desire and aim of restoring to the Church the spiritual power and fervor of Apostolic Christianity.) Acts 1:4-5, 8, 12-14 and 2nd Chapter.

OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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MR. HUGH R. MONRO

HEADQUARTERS: THIRD FLOOR SOUTH, 1421 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y.

NEW YORK, N. Y.
Sept. 17, 1934.

GENERAL COMMITTEE

My Dear Dr. Speer:

REV. DON O. SHELTON,
Pres. National Bible Institute, New
York City.

REV. FRANCIS B. UPHAM,
Pastor John Street Methodist Church,
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New York City.

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New York City.

MR. WM. PHILLIPS HALL,
President American Tract Society,
New York City.

REV. WILLIAM CARTER,
Late Pastor Throop Ave. Presbyterian
Church, Brooklyn, N. Y.

My heart bleeds for you in the tragic death of your dear son. It is one of the most devastating things that has ever come to one so devoted to God's great world wide work.

In common with hundreds of your friends and brethren, I send my heartfelt sympathy and most profound sorrow for this terrible blow that has come upon you and your home.

Mrs Carter joins me in deepest sympathy also to your dear wife. May God in His infinite goodness and lovingkindness be very loving and tender to both of you.

Yours in Christian Love and Tenderness,

W. Carter

078

The Presbytery of Baltimore

[ORGANIZED IN BALTIMORE TOWN, NOVEMBER 1786]

Baltimore, Maryland

September 16, 1934.

Mr. Robert E. Speer, D.D., LL.D.,
156 Fifth Ave., New York City.

My dear Mr. Speer:

Few men, if any, have in this generation led so many to the throne of grace as you have. And now, with the mother of your son, and his family, you stand greatly in need of that merciful love in which you have confirmed our belief by your teaching and your "being." May you know, in sufficient measure, the peace and comfort which only the Master can bring.

The church, which you have served so well, must join now in interceding for you. Would that it were possible for us to do even more.

Sincerely,
A. Brown Caldwell.

578

THE PINE STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
C. WALDO CHERRY, MINISTER

THE CHURCH OFFICE
315 NORTH FRONT STREET

Sept 19. 1934

Dear Dr Spear:

I hope it is some comfort to you Mrs Spear. to know that throughout the length & breadth of America the hearts of friends are aching for you today. Praying our Heavenly Father that he lift before you the vision of our eternal Home in Christ.

Please do not trouble to answer this inadequate word from one of your friends who from college days has found inspiration & comfort in your life.

Sincerely Yours

C. Waldo Cherry

618

139 Grand Ave., Oakland, Calif.,
Sept. 17, 1934.

Dear Dr. Speer:

Mrs. Callender and I were horrified yesterday morning at the hour of worship, when Dr. Downs announced the killing of your son Elliott. Dr. Downs had seen a notice of this awful deed in the Berkeley Gazette. On our return home we verified the truth of his statement by looking up the item in the Gazette. As Dr. Downs exclaimed, "what is our country coming to that such awful deeds are being committed." and it is not just the fact that such deeds too horrible to mention are being done in this so-called Christian civilization, but it is the number of them that constitutes the enormity of the appalling condition in our beloved land.

Some days ago as I was returning from the dentist's office I saw a movie notice "Murder in the back seat" to attract people into Satan's movie den. I burst into tears and quickly turned down a side street covering my face with my hands for shame. A few nights ago we attended a social function among our relatives at which one of the plays consisted of a "murder trial." That Christian people are entertained

with such stuff is a sad commentary on present-day conditions. The siren of the ambulance sounds in weird tones announcing a motor car accident or death, the daily paper announces in headlines appalling murders which news boys yell on the streets in order to sell their wares. How can hearts refrain from becoming calloused in such an atmosphere? I recall the warning of the prophet Micah: "Arise ye, and depart; for this is not your rest: because it is polluted, it shall destroy you, even with a sore destruction." To me American conditions are depressing. I long to return to my dear flock in Yunnan, China as soon as health permits. Now, and always, there is only one safe place: "The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe."

And now, my dear brother, you know many a prayer is being offered for you and family in your sorrow and bereavement. and we know God's "grace is sufficient." Christ said to Peter, "what I do thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter."

Mrs. Callender joins me in sending loving sympathy.

Your brother in Christ,
C. R. Callender

011

SAMUEL MCCREA CAVERT
1 GLEN WASHINGTON ROAD
BRONXVILLE, N. Y.

September 16, 1934

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer:

The news of Elliott's tragic death is so shocking, so terrible, that you have been in my thoughts all day. There is no human word that can help at such a time, but I do want you to know that ^{I am} among the host of friends who are praying that you may be comforted of God.

Always faithfully yours,

Samuel McCrear Caver

514

Asheville Normal and Teachers College
Asheville, North Carolina

CONDUCTED BY

The Board of National Missions

OF THE

Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Asheville, N.C.
September 16, 1934.

Dear Dr. Speer;

We have learned of the sorrow that has come to you and your family in the loss of your son Elliott. His splendid Christian life so full of service will comfort you more than any words we who love you can speak. Mrs. Calfee and myself do however want you and your dear family to know that you are in our daily thoughts and prayers. May God bless, comfort, and sustain you as He draws you nearer in His arms of love.

Most sincerely yours

John E. Calfee

LEWIS BIRGE CHAMBERLAIN
THE BIBLE HOUSE, ASTOR PLACE
NEW YORK

Egglewood

My dear friend,

God still is love. I know you are sustained by that great fact. In the face of what has happened one knows not what to say. You know beyond any doubt that the loving sympathy of your great host of friends is with you and their prayers sustain you.

In one thing I find myself rejoicing deeply for you both and for Elliott's wife and daughters. He had made such use of his life, and it had been long enough to have achieved something very much worth while, and that will be remembered.

Will has asked me to include a message of his profound sympathy. You would hear from him directly were it feasible. But he is again on his back in a hospital under Drs' care. I can however report that latest prospects are good, and he hopes to resume normal life soon. He feels deeply with and for you.

Please do not acknowledge this, but wish understood that we are all eager that you all be comforted and sustained by Him whom you know and serve so well

Most sincerely

Lewis B. Chamberlain

2315 Irving Ave. So. Minneapolis Minn.
Sep.16th,1934

Our very dear Cousins Emma and Robert.

We cannot tell you what a shock it was to learn today of the very great tragedy that has come into your lives in the loss of dear Elliott.

Words fail one and seem so inadequate to express what we feel, and I would that I could throw my arms around you and cry with you.

You have been constantly in our thoughts and prayers ever since we heard the news this morning in church, where Dr. Boddy prayed so beautifully for you, and I know many other ministers have remembered you in their prayers and with them the great host of people who love you.

All we can do at such a time is to look up to the Dear Father who loves and pities us, and suffers with us. He never allows a single tragedy pain or sorrow to enter our lives without some wise and loving purpose, and in all our sufferings He suffers with us. O what a wonderful God and Savior we have! How closely He comes to us when we see Him weeping with Mary and Martha. Nothing has brought Him closer to me in times of sorrow than to remember that God Cries with us.

With our limited understanding and vision, we cannot understand now the mystery of so much suffering and its pain, but we do know that often His greatest blessings come to us thru suffering. For one thing, it makes us feel very tenderly towards all who suffer, we can enter into their agony as we could not any other way.

We cannot understand why so many who are a burden and seemingly useless, - so many who are a curse to the world remain, while those who are so needed and fill such a large place are taken.

When dear Joe was sick, thousands of Moslems as well as Christians asked God to take them and spare him.

But, it will not be so very long before we shall understand all, in that other life where we shall see Him face to face, with the marks He bore for our sakes.

O the wonder of the sympathy and love of Christ! When He knew the sufferings that awaited His followers, He said, "Let not your heart be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me" --- Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid"

I shall never forget the words of my sainted Mother, shortly before she was to give her last son up for His work. "Fred, as I look back over life there have been many sorrows, and much suffering, (She had lost five children and her husband) but if I could, I would not make a single change".

Those words have often comforted me, as they showed her faith and resignation.

I know the Loving Arms are around you dear ones, and that He will comfort you. I cannot tell you how very precious you are to us, and how very closely this brings you to us. We love you more than ever and shall pray continually that He help and comfort you. Please extend our deepest sympathy and love to Margaret and William. With deepest sympathy & love

Always affectionately yours

Fred Coan

613

The
Presbytery of Boston
Presbyterian Church U. S. A.

Theodore M. Carlisle, D. D., Stated Clerk
74 Orchard Street, Jamaica Plain, Mass.



William Broome, Treasurer
167 Glenwood Street, Malden, Mass.

Dr Robert E. Speer
New York City.

Dear Dr Speer:

The Presbytery of Boston assembled in the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Boston has authorized me as Stated Clerk to extend to you and Mrs Speer our heartfelt and deepest sympathy in the sorrow that has come to your home.

Your Son was a worthy member of our profession of the ministry. His work at the Mt Hermon school is a testimony to his scholarly ability. The method of his removal from such a ministry and home and loved ones was dastardly.

May we encroach upon your hour of grief to thus offer our heartfelt sympathy and to join with you in the knowledge that our Heavenly Father will comfort you with the comfort wherewith you have comforted others in His Name.

With sincere desire to have you know we are all mindful of you and your wife as well as Mrs Elliott Speer and family in our prayers I beg to remain

Most sincerely

Theodore M. Carlisle

October
5th, 1934.

Theodore M. Carlisle, Stated Clerk.

613

"The Love of Christ Constraineth Us"

United Christian Missionary Society

STEPHEN J. COREY, PRESIDENT
I. J. CAHILL, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
MISS LELA E. TAYLOR, SECOND
VICE-PRESIDENT
MISS HAZEL I. SCOTT, RECORDER
C. W. PLOPPER, TREASURER

THE FIELD IS THE WORLD

MISSIONS BUILDING

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

CONTINUING THE WORK OF THE
AMERICAN CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY
CHRISTIAN WOMAN'S BOARD OF MISSIONS
FOREIGN CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY

CABLE ADDRESS "GO"

September 19, 1934

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 - 5th Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Robert:

You and Mrs. Speer and the family of Elliott Speer have been very much in my mind and prayers during the days of your great sorrow. There are thousands of good people who will have fellowship with you in the hour of your trial. Your faith and spiritual insight have been a great encouragement to me through all the years of our acquaintance. I know that the same realities are aiding you in the blow which has come. I want you to know that you are remembered.

Affectionately yours,

Stephen J. Corey

SJC:42-i

613

First Presbyterian Church

Pottsville, Pennsylvania

MERLYN A. CHAPPEL, MINISTER

September 17-1934

Dr. Robert E. Spear,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Dr. Spear -

Words cannot express our feelings at this moment. But I want you to know that in your tragic loss we are held to you with a closer tie of love than ever before. May the Heavenly Father give you strength to carry the cross, and lead us on in the world mission of our Church. Yesterday morning, at the Communion Service, our congregation prayed for you and Mrs. Spear, and your loved family.

Sincerely,
Merlyn A. Chappel

113

212 So. Euclid Ave.
Pasadena, California,
Sept. 15, 1934.

My dear Dr. Speer:

On times like this I often think of a phrase often on the lips of my godly father— "the God of all comfort." How fortunate that you know him.

Dr. and Mrs. Freeman have been in Great Britain this summer. They are now probably either on the high seas or in Canada. So Dr. Freeman may not hear of you soon as soon as he would if he were in the United States.

Yours sincerely

Mary C. Colquhoun.

43

Presbyterian Church

HENRY, ILLINOIS

ROGER F. CRESSEY, PASTOR

Sept. 16. 1934

Dr. & Mrs. Robt. E. Spur;
156 Fifth Ave.
New York City

Dear Friends:

I am just one of those
obscure preachers loyal to our
standards & Boards, whose privilege
it has been to hear you often since
the date of the Omaha Missionary
meeting about 25 yrs ago, & thanking
God for your 1934 addresses to
Illinois Synod & your reaction
to Re Thinking Missions.

We were inexpressibly shocked
as yesterday we read of the awful
tragedy that has come to you.

Since accidental death has en-
tered our family twice, we can un-
derstand a little of your feeling.

The loving Christ who has carried
you through other crises is still
your Elder Brother.

We & the church pray His grace
may fill your heart & His love
sustain you.

Yours in Christ

Roger F. Cressey

Dr. McAfee will
probably remem-
ber me.

WILLIAM MARSHALL COSBY
BIRMINGHAM

September 21st,

1
9
3
4

Dr. Doctor Speer:

I was made very sad when I learned of the untimely going of your wonderful son. It was a most dastardly deed, and must have been the act of a maniac. It seems unnatural, as well as very sad, that such a man as he should be taken, and so many thousands of worthless ones left.

You have a warm place in the hearts of the American people, and the entire world so far as that is concerned, and you are probably the best known and best loved layman in the world.

The fact that you have the sympathy of so many people I know will be solace to you in this dark hour; more so, since you are probably nearer our Saviour than any other layman. I know that you are depending upon that entirely at this time and there is not much that I can say.

I think perhaps I can sympathize with you more than the average man, as I lost my only dear son when he was twenty-one.

With very best wishes, I am

Most sincerely,

W. M. Cosby

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

1 Highland Terrace
Upper Montclair, N. J.
Sept 18. 1934

Dear Dr Spear:

In such a tragedy as you and Mrs Spear have been called upon to face, words are utterly inadequate to assuage the sorrow. But it sometimes helps a little to know that friends are bearing you in deepest sympathy before the only One who can heal the broken in heart. May His presence be very real to you in these days of pain.

Affectionately yours

J. S. Downing

54

CONTROLLED ESTATES, INC.
INVESTMENT AND FIDUCIARY CO-ORDINATORS
90 BROAD STREET, NEW YORK

September 18th, 1934.

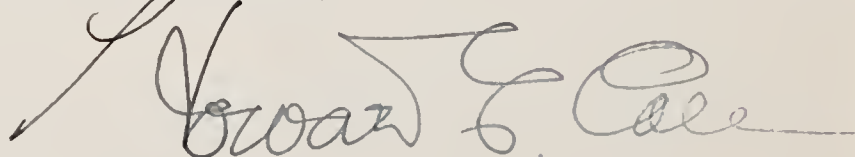
Dr. Robert E. Speer, Secretary
Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

My dear Doctor:-

Upon my return to the city yesterday,
I read in the newspapers of the sad and untimely pass-
ing of your son. What a terrific shock his death must
have been to Mrs. Speer and yourself. Mrs. Cole joins
me in the expression of heartfelt sympathy in your great
bereavement.

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,



H.E.C./gw

517

Columbia Theological Seminary

Decatur, Georgia

September 18, 1934.

PATRICK H. CARMICHAEL
ENGLISH BIBLE AND
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Doctor Speer,

We have just noticed the Associated Press report of the tragic death of your son. I hasten to express genuine sympathy to you and other members of the family. I am sure that it must have come to all of you as a very great shock.

Realizing as I do that you and yours enjoy the deeper satisfactions which come from a vital fellowship with Him, I wish to say to you that we share with you in your sorrow.

Fraternally yours,

P. H. Carmichael

016

1 Rue du Cardinal Lemoine
Paris - France

September 25 - '34 -

Dear Doctor Speer: -

It does not seem possible that Elliott is gone - I cannot understand it - He was so young and strong and brave and good - I loved him for just what he was - We somehow understood each other - He was

noble and straight forward.

He was full of hope
and courage - He loved
God and sought always
to do His will -

We had a long letter from

him last Saturday

written two days before

that terrible evening.

He told us of his vacation

in Canada and how he

and Holly were building

the camp and expected

to finish it next year.

He told of his plans for the school.

I shall miss him more
and more. I had
learned to depend on
him for Mount Hermon.

I am stunned and
bewildered. Poor Folly!
and the children. We
pray for them -

How you and Mrs. Spear,
father and mother, must
miss your boy! We
think of you daily. We
need God's comforting arms
about us.

In deep sympathy,
Henry F. Cutler

74

THE LOUISVILLE PRESBYTERIAN SEMINARY
BROADWAY AT FIRST STREET
LOUISVILLE, KY.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

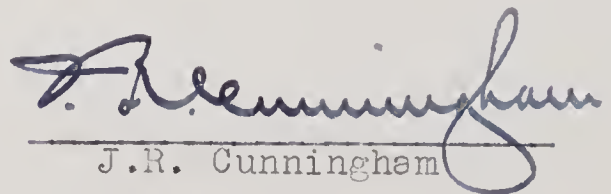
September 17th, 1934.

Rev. Robert E. Speer, D.D.,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Speer:

Along with a multitude of other friends of yours my heart goes out in deepest sympathy to you and Mrs. Speer in the deep and tragic bereavement you have suffered. We are remembering you in our prayers and trusting that God's all sufficient grace will sustain and comfort you in your shock and sorrow.

Very sincerely yours,


J.R. Cunningham

JRC-ER

578

HERBERT K. CASKEY
34 LAWRENCE PLACE
ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

My Dear Robert —

You and your dear ones have been very much in the thoughts and the prayers of a multitude of devoted friends through these past few days — few but horrible.

We can but commend you to Him who is "able to keep".

Mrs. Caskey joins me in sincerest sympathy for you all —

With truly yours

Herbert K. Caskey

Sept. 23 / 34

2217 Gule St. St. Joseph, Mo.
Oct. 2, 1937.

My dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer:-

It was not until I received the recent "Board Letter", that I realized that the Elliott Speer of whose dastardly assassination I had read in our papers, I was your son.

As one of the great crowds of sympathizers I come to you - I can only say - May richest blessings be yours, and that through

this great black cloud of sorrow covering
you, may you see the face of our Lord Jesus
Christ, and hear His voice saying "I
am with you."

Just one of your many friends
Edna S. Cole.

Q16

346 Yale Avenue
New Haven, Conn.

Sept. 26, 1934

Dear Dr. & Mrs. Spicer

Since the word
smote our hearts, thinking of you all,
we have felt helpless to write and
could only hold you before our Father,
assured that He could and would
bear you up, and hold you fast—
for "there is no limit to what He can be
to those who trust Him."

I thought immediately of you as I
read these words of Forbes Robinson: lately—
"I can only tell you what I have felt
to be the only thing which makes life
endurable at a time of real sorrow—
God Himself. He comes unutterably
near in trouble. -- There is no "getting-

over "sorrow"--- but there is a "getting into"
sorrow and finding right at the heart of it--
the man of sorrows."

We know this has been your experience
and we thank God for what His presence
has meant & means to you all.

Yours in deepest sympathy
and affection

Helmut P. Curtis

Frederick S. Curtis.

Grace also wishes me to express her deep
sympathy.

To Dr. Robert Speer.

They crucified him on Mt Hermon's hill.

He who envisioned life's fair blossoming.

The vision of it wakes our horror still; -

He was the servant of our King.

And he shall pass as our Lincoln, on

Through the long sacrifice, from ages' dawn.

"The Commonwealth had need of him" they'll say.

And so he passes on.

Sibbrian S. Copeland: the Author.

With your permission I will submit it to The
Congregationalist. Written this morning.



GEORGE WASHINGTON HOTEL

OPERATED BY
WILLIAM FOOR HOTELS CO

WASHINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA

J. E. LINDSAY, MANAGER

Dear Mr. Spurr - You must know we
continue daily to pray that sus-
taining you & strength to you
and your dear ones - all - this
dear awful trial.

I have the assurance
you will be kept - I read more
and more II Cor. 1:3-6. espe-
cially - In the way God does - also
II Cor. 4:8 - End - of Chapt. - especially
my month's edicts or translations

His will - always in
believe puts the fallow - I mean



GEORGE WASHINGTON HOTEL

OPERATED BY
WILLIAM FOOR HOTELS CO

WASHINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA

J. E. LINDSAY, MANAGER

at great railway. expensive teacher
as we can the fulfillment of his
promises - more and more in an
list in the words of it all -
in causal explain how we know
it's - that's all that's necessary.

Yours in Christian love - & respect

Wm. Cleanland

Sunday - Washington Pa

R. E. Speer

OCT 4 1934



ON BOARD R.M.S. "MAJESTIC"

Ards Day, Sep. 30, 34.

My very dear Mr. Tom Speer,
I heard of your dear son's sudden unexpected translation into the Eternal Life from Risen Ard just before sailing from Southampton. I do not know what to say, nor am I fully aware of all the circumstances of this great sorrow. My first impulse was to hold my peace, even from good. Yet while I mused the fire burned within me, & I cannot refrain from telling you what you already know. That you are encompassed by the love of countless believing souls & followed by their prayers. I recall my experience with you beloved son when he entered on his

new duties were united together to
Newark, N.J., to collect funds for
then discharge, he won my heart
then & forever. Only this summer I
saw you dear daughter at the City
Temple. London. I had a moment
chat with her & her husband. My
profound affection & reverence for
you both halts my pen. You are more
deeply intimate with the Divine
sources of strength & consolation
than I am. But I can & I do
remember you yours where it is
easiest to be remembered, &
since we can never cease to love
those we love we can never lose
those we thus love. Believe me,
dear & treasured friends, with
Mr Cadman's inexpressible sympathy
and mine. Yours ever affectionately,
Stark Cadman

with - what's out 15.

Dear Mrs. Spear.

Through all the heartache for you I keep thinking of the glorious years of Elliott's life and of how much he gave to many people.

There is the dear memory of an evening in Englewood when he was my most charming twelve year old host - you were in bed with a cold - and there is his most

gracious invitation
and urging that I
come to Northfield
and let him show
me how much finer
a host he had
grown to be - this
apropos of some cor-
respondence about
my young nephews
going to Mt. Hermon.
How I cherish those
memories, as I enter
into your grief and
your high courage.

Very lovingly

Ethel Cieder

347 E 50th.

New York N.Y.

3826 Lemmon Ave
018

Dallas Tex. Sept 27.

My Dear Friend.

We were greatly shocked
at the ~~tragic~~ Home going
of your Son & I am writing
to express our great grief at the
severe loss to you & yours

We often think & speak of
you with real affection. I
often think of that Convention
in Walter Bros S.C. when I
was a green State Secy &
for some of the old days
when men were turning to
Christ in larger numbers
than in the present days.

With affection regards from
Mrs Conitt & I

Affectionately

L. A. Coulter

518

Hartford City Ind.
Oct. 1 1934.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Doctor Speer:—

It was a shock to learn of the tragic death of your gifted son, and we extend to you deep sympathy in your loss.

May the same rich blessing of God with which you have blessed others in times of grief and loss, now bless you with grace and comfort.

We pray for you and yours, that the strength of Christ which has so flowed through you to others, may now serve you in your need.

Sincerely
Herbert C. Cornuelle.

From the Desk of

MS

WILLIAM MELVILLE CURRY, D. D.
1116 DREXEL AVENUE
DREXEL HILL, PA.

Sept 15 34

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue
New York

My Dear Dr. Speer:-

Mrs Curry joins me in most profound sympathy to you and Mrs Speer on the tragic death of your son, Elliot.

One wonders what our country is coming to these days. May God bless you, Dear man in this hour of your sorrow.

Affectionately

Wm M Curry

58

THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
COMPARATIVE RELIGION AND MISSIONS
W. O. CARVER
BOX 4, NORTON HALL, LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

Sept. 15-34

Rev. Dr. Robt. E. Speer,
New York City.

Dear Dr. Speer:

My deepest sympathy
in the name of Him
who brought life and
immortality to light
through His Son, which
you preach.

W. O. CARVER.

Restler.

Sept. 27/34.

139 DESSWOOD PLACE,

ABERDEEN.

041
/

My dear Friend,

I cannot express my sym-
-pathy with your wife & yours in the
great trial of your faith but has come
upon you & your family. It has come
where even I again with a thick
pain & sorrows & heard of Elliott's
death. You know all that can be
said. I do not presume to
think that I can say anything new to
you. "You have been Great heart
ever since I knew you." But
I am comfort with you & re-
member you hope God. One
feels the immeasurable value in
such dark & strange experiences of
the sovereignty of God. Our Calvinist
forefathers were right thro' out. Only
the Sovereign we believe in is
a Sovereign of Love. I have
sometimes wondered why we

did not make more of the Cross as
 the sovereign example in human
 history of God's Power. power to bring
 Good out of evil, the very darkest
 evil, evil far worse than death
 & sorrow, and all that ~~was~~ without
 can ~~have~~ bruise & poison human
 life, man's worst blessing becoming ^{the}
 means of the supreme disclosure of God's love.
 I wish I had known Elliot better.
 I have always reproached myself
 that I did not see more of him
 when we were in London together
 16 or 17 years ago. But we were
 both very busy in that dark &
 exciting year. I have followed
 his career since then, however,
 both through the press & by repeated
 personal inquiries. & I know

how fine a piece of work he has been
doing. To me he will always be
the light & blessing of
my memories.

This is just a hurried letter of cordial
& sympathy. May God bless & comfort
you both & the good family at home
& blessed.

I am, my dear friend -
Very affectionately yr.

A. V. Green.

011

THE MISSIONARY TRAINING INSTITUTE
NYACK-ON-HUDSON
NEW YORK



JOHN H. CABLE, S. T. B., D. D.
DEAN OF THE FACULTY

Sept. 17 '34

Dear Dr. Speer:

We were shocked to read of the tragic and untimely death of your son. We extend to you our deepest sympathy. Mrs Cable and I lost our only son and so are prepared to understand something of the loss you sustain. May His consolation be vouchsafed to you.

In the bonds of
Christian love,

Mrs Mrs Cable

511

Elizabeth J.
Sept 16th 1934.

My Dear Robert:

It would be impossible for me to tell you how deeply I love you & how much I grieve over your tragic loss.

Continually of late I have been praying for you by name - that under the waves of misunderstanding & false accusation which have been rolling over you your faith might not fail - your strength might be equal

to your task & that, all the time, you
might consciously feel that under you
were the Everlasting Arms.

And now this added sorrow has
suddenly fallen upon you. May our
Heavenly Father sustain & keep - you &
yours

Affectionately

E. B. Cobb.

JOHN J. ROGERSON,
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

L. A. SEXTON, M.D.,
SUPERINTENDENT

JOSEPH W. HINSLEY,
2ND ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

HARTFORD HOSPITAL

HARTFORD, CONN.

Sept 21.

You precious ones — Rob & Emma —
My very first line goes to

you with the most tender love. Jim is the one
who told me of the astounding & incredible grief in your
dear family — instantly on my arrival & now comes your
beautiful letter Rob — which he insisted on having read to him.
And I've no words to tell you what it meant to him &
I mean to me. By the greatest miracle — he is still with us

These from N.Y. about 25th.

& Mr. Julian with no fractures. He will be
here at least a couple weeks more. He is found up
& in peace - so is kept absolutely still & quiet.

Mr. Russell; call now to be kind - tell the friends
marvellously thoughtful - Dr. McCaffrey's telegram to Dr. Luce
Luce etc. His nephew - John Parke - was taken back
yesterday to Bucharest - & the eye operated. Think he can
go on to Princeton next week. I left George a
week ago - on your birthday as a matter of fact - much
father & he left on the 14th for Alexandria - via Rome. Your
devotion in London promise quellant father. We both love

John

deafly

Yours

1326 DE KALB STREET
NORRISTOWN
PENNSYLVANIA

Sept. 16 34

Dear Rob.:-

Helen has just written expressing our deepest sorrow and sympathy. While I know you will be overwhelmed with letters, yet I cannot refrain from adding one more short note. Our friendships have been so very real and our love for Elliott and every member of the Speer family so intimate and abiding that the shock has left us dumb. Words are so inadequate to express the love and sympathy that is overflowing from our hearts, but we know you will understand what we feel but are unable to adequately express.

May the peace of God which passeth all understanding, keep you in this time of your sore affliction is my prayer.

Your friend
H. Colman

6th
Apr.

MAJOR DANIEL WARWICK COLHOUN

Monday

Dear "Uncle Rob":

I am - thinking
of you and yours at this
terrible time. My sympathy
goes to you all. We all have
our share of sorrow and there
is just nothing we can do to
prevent it. We can have
courage in bearing it, however.

Please let us come to you
soon to pay us a little visit.

Sincerely

D. W. C.

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

RUSSELL CARTER
TREASURER

HELEN KITTREDGE
ASSOCIATE TREASURER

CLARENCE A. STEELE
ASSISTANT TREASURER

Saty. a. m.

Sept. 15/34.

Dear Robert;

We are all finding it hard to go quietly about our work this morning so concerned are we over what we assume some craged person has done, and they are all gathering together to remember you in prayer as they have been doing individually all the morning - The one who bears your name and would have carried your spirit ^{also} out into the world. You have no sorrow arising from any failure upon his part, such as many have to bear. The memories will be sweet and full of affection, arising out of lives in full accord. You will be upheld by Him who said "I will not leave you comfortless" "I will come unto you."

You wrote a personal word to Mrs. Carter and me when our boy was taken, and it has never been forgotten, and she would want to join me in this.

May this everlasting arms be about you both.

In very deep love and sympathy
Russell Carter

unbrashed pillars, & I have never forgotten
to seem sure it is the truth, since
his rules & maxims for his
glory. May the God you
and all your strength
for this trial,
with affection as always

Amos

Sept 21

There are many in L.A. whose hearts
who remember Medd's ^{helpful services in the} chest
fact with appreciation * would
with to be remembered if they knew
I was writing.

Sincerely

L.A. Crane

Sept. 17th 1934-

Dear Dr. Spier:-

May I add my word

of heartfelt sympathy to Burt?

The I think you know how

desperately ill Burt has been

for the past five months, &

will not explain this pathetic

attempt at writing. Our

earnest prayers are with you

& yours - that you may be

given strength to bear this

rough time ahead. Most sincerely
Walter V. Crane



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1216 BETHUN J

Dear Robert,

I have read with sorrow
the tragic death of
your son Eliot.

think of anything else
since.

For such a thing
could happen to
a martyr as I
had known

deprecate
I pray that the
mystery may be
solved.

Your son was such a
splendid fellow and
had given his life

so wholly
his fellow members
the sake of Christ.
I remember the service
once saying

~~but I know~~
(I know)
that there are really
no completed
lives - oo

370 - 17th Street -

San Bernardino, Calif.

My dear Friend,

Will & I rest a extended our
hands across the continent in sympathy
to you & your wife in the tragic loss
of your son. There have been such
magnificent accounts in the news, that I did
not know till yesterday the "horrible"
"shock" - Anna had seen Mary Miller -
John has been in Acuteing on since
Hubert Miller has been sick. There
are so many sad things happening
all the time - but it seems yours
is such an unnecessary "why" - The
"why" will come - we can't help
them - but I hope for you both
Comfort in your heartache.
Sincere sympathy to you both -
Yours cordially,

Fannie D. Clayford.

November sixteenth.

HOME
130 RIDGE AVENUE
PHONE 396-R

OFFICE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PHONE 872-J

DONALD W. CARRUTHERS
PRESBYTERIAN MINISTER TO STUDENTS
AT
THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE COLLEGE
STATE COLLEGE, PENNSYLVANIA

Handwritten initials: DWS

December 7, 1934

Dr. Robert E. Speer
Senior Secretary
The Board of Foreign Missions
The Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Speer:

You have been repeatedly in my thoughts and prayers since the news of the sudden passing of Elliott. I knew him in my connections with Murray Dodge and in our Princeton Crusaders group. I recall his asking my counsel years ago regarding Mr. Will Moody's invitation to have a part in the Northfield schools.

At the Quiet Day of the Huntingdon Presbytery the early part of September, some of us asked that you and your family be remembered corporately in prayer. One of the members of the Huntingdon session told me of your telegram to your sister telling of the news and ending with the words "God is love." It was such a tremendous challenge to know of such confident faith when the bottom of life had shelved so treacherously. Some days afterward, in speaking with a geologist who has been discovering more of God, and who himself had recently finished your book "The Finality of Jesus Christ," on learning of the closing words of your telegram, said, "Any man who could write a book like that could say a thing like that."

In England two summers ago, in Oxford I heard a Scottish woman of noble family telling of some of her suffering, say "God entrusts us with suffering." It was a whole new concept on the ways of God's dealing with His children.

A few days ago a graduate student in Bio Chemistry, who has been working his way through to a deeper faith, said, "I have come to the conclusion that there are two certainties

Representing
The University Department, The Board of Christian Education,
The Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.

DONALD W. CARRUTHERS
PRESBYTERIAN MINISTER TO STUDENTS
AT
THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE COLLEGE
STATE COLLEGE, PENNSYLVANIA

-2-

in life. One is death and the other is God." At the funeral of a college student killed in an automobile accident recently, one was conscious of the fidelity of the lad's observations. *ations.*

God be with you and bless you and your immediate family in your deepened Christian witness into which He has called you. Please do not bother acknowledging this letter, for I know of the tremendous demands already made upon you. I have assured you previously of the deep gratitude some of us feel to God for your insistent Christian witness these more than forty years of discipleship.

Very sincerely yours,

Donald W. Carruthers

DWC:DLM

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Received at 180 Worthington Street, Springfield, Mass. **ALWAYS OPEN**

1934 SEP 17 PM 8 36

NA369 VIA RCA=CD STANDREWS 24 17

NLT CLARA REED EDGEWOOD GDNS=

SPRINGFIELD (MASS)=

PROFOUNDLY GRIEVED ABOUT ELLIOTT SPEER PLEASE GIVE MY

DEEPEST SYMPATHY AND LOVE TO EMMA ALL WELL HERE=

IRIS.

Cook

*cc: [unclear]
9/17/34
Sept 15*

MINUTES IN TRANSIT	
FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER

879

Mr and Mrs Laurence Locke Doggett

250 Alden Street

With our sincere
Sympathy
Olive Dutcher Doggett
Lawrence L. Doggett

International Y. M. C. A.
College, Springfield
Mass.

Rind. Oct 6

ackr.

201 Dewitt Street.
Syracuse, N.Y.
October 2, 1934.
Mrs Donald Day.

My dear Mrs. Speer.

On this bright, snappy
October morning, sitting in
the glare of the October sun-
shine in my home, my
mind reverts to you. as it
so often does, and I want
you to know what an in-
spiration you have always
been to me personally and
to thousands more whom

you will never know.

And now, in this sorrow
which has struck without
warning into your household
and into that Northfield
home, it is surely a challenge
to our faith to say "Thy will
be done." Certainly you
and your good husband
must be very near to the
heart of the Almighty, for

we are told that "Whom the
Lord loveth, He chasteneth"

It is hard in this disturbed
age and time, to understand
why so many evil spirits are
allowed to flourish, and in-
crease, while the worthy
men and women, whose
constant thought is for the
good and upbuilding of
others, are harassed and meet

violent deaths, or serious injuries in prosecution of their duties.

It seems to me that the Y.M.C.A. has done a marvellous work in these times especially in keeping young women at their best.

May the Heavenly Father whom you all have so faithfully served. Lo! these many years bring His own comfort to all your hearts.

With abiding love

Mary Duguid Dey.

(Mrs. Donald)

Rec'd Oct. 6 -

Martha Danks -

ack.

My dear Mrs Speer

You know without
its being said, that
any sorrow which
comes to you personally
touches each one of
us to whom you
have meant so much
down through the

years, and our hearts
reach out to you with
love and sympathy. I
fancy that for each one
some moment stands out
in our recollection of you in
the days of your presidency. Mine
is at the Cleveland convention
when I had returned from
Russia the first time, and
you and Mrs French and
Miss Cratty talked about Russia
with me late one night. The
greatness of your understand-
ing and wisdom of your
sympathy in the face of
conditions at that time, will

forever stand as
an uplifting ex-
perience for me -

We hope you
will feel like
coming back to us
soon -

Affectionately yours
Marcia C. Dunham

WYNCREST
HUNTINGDON PA.

Dear Robert,

I want you to know how much I prize your lovely note of sympathy and your thought of me, when your own sad bereavement was weighing you down.

Be assured you gave me no little comfort, and that I will do my best to carry my heavy load as the Master would have me do. With warmest regards and deepest sympathy to you and Mrs. Speer,

I am Gratefully Yours

John A. Dorris

Nov. 5, '34

922

Little Gorceffenberg -
September 18 -

My dear Emma -

What can we
say or do?

We can only send
our love & deep

sympathy or believe
me that we are

distrained for you all -
Such a tragic ending to
such a promising -
splendid man - & so
young to die -

With kind remembrances
from my sisters &
deep admiration for you -

Affectionately
Tuesday - Emily G. Rock.

ack.

Dear Mrs. Spear,

In the midst of these
most difficult days for you
I wanted you to know that
I have been thinking of you
so deeply and wishing there
were some way in which
I might help.

Perhaps it does help a bit to
know that your friends are
standing by and remembering
you in their prayers

Your friend

Sarah Jane Juffield

September Seventeenth.

ack!

MARY DUDDERIDGE
CARNEGIE HALL, STUDIO 133
154 WEST FIFTY-SEVENTH STREET
TELEPHONE CIRCLE 7-6025

September 16th

My dear Mrs. Speer:

I have just read in the Times the shocking news about your son. Knowing how overwhelmed you must be by such a tragedy, I hesitate to intrude upon you, but I cannot refrain from writing to express my sympathy. It is a small thing, but all one has to offer at a time like this.

What a terrible world in which things like this can happen!

Yours very sincerely

Mary Dudderidge

ack;

Sat. Eve.

Sept. 15, 34.

172 Aspen Rd

Swampscott
Mass.

Dear Cousin Emma:-

I was indeed
greatly shocked to read in the
paper today about Elliott. I
have written Esther and in-
cluded for her one of the
Boston papers. I have also
written my brother Howard in
Seattle as he spent several
years in school at Northfield.
Since Anne and I last saw

You know that we are thinking of you especially in the next few days and should you have occasion to run over to Boston be sure we will be glad to see you in our home and to help you in anyway we can.

I hope both you and Cousin Robert are in good health and I know you will carry on as before.

Your cousin

Will E. Doll

You in Detroit in the spring
of 1930 we have been blessed
with a son and he is now $3\frac{1}{2}$
years old. In watching him this
evening I can appreciate what
loosing a good son like Elliott
will mean and both our hearts
good out to you + Cousin Robert.

We wonder sometimes, while
knowing that all things that happen
are for the best, why such good
young men are not spared so they
may complete their good work.

Darrah Linn

OT 8

Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Linn Hetzel

At Home

after the fifteenth of November

20 Crescent Street

Waterbury, Connecticut

57

114 EAST 90TH STREET

Apr. 16, 1934.

Dear Robert,

Our love and very deepest sympathy surrounds you and yours and we are suffering with you.

This afternoon at 4 o'clock I sat here and felt as though I were sharing in the service

with you.

Please call upon me if
you think of anything
I can do for anyone
in the group.

Love joins in every
expression of love and
sympathy for all of
you.

With devotion,
Lynette.

500

Dear Dr Speer:-

We deeply sympathize
with you in the loss of your
son. May the peace of the
Infant Jesus fill your heart
at His Birthday-time.

Sincerely,

Charles and Ruth Doolittle



A Joyous Christmas

REMEMBERING "JESUS CHRIST THE SAME
YESTERDAY AND TO-DAY,
AND FOREVER"

Hebrews 13:8.



CHRISTMAS 1934

REV. AND MRS. CHARLES T. DOOLITTLE

(over)

Cuba.

808 BROOME STREET
WILMINGTON, DEL.

My dear Mrs Spur

I feel a letter from me
is almost an intrusion, but
I want to tell you of my
great sympathy. My only
excuse is that a great deal
of sorrow has been my lot, and
my heart aches for you.

Your old friend

Oct 4th 1934

Alice du Pont.

u. ch. 1.

PEACOCK POINT
LOCUST VALLEY · LONG ISLAND
TELEPHONE · GLEN COVE 51

My dear E. nurse,

Words fail me in trying to express my heart at the shooting of Elliot and in my deep sympathy for your sweet little family. The papers are so full of lurid things but this is something so entirely unlooked for and so

outside of the bounds of
possibilities. Some poor
creature must have been
out of their mind and your
splendid boy has had
to bear the penalty, or
rather you send your
family as he is beyond
suffering. We know where
your consolation will be
is placed - may it not
find you.

Very lovingly
Sincerely, Kate Davison

Acta.

GREYSTON
RIVERDALE-ON-HUDSON
NEW YORK

My dear Mrs. Speer,

You are in our hearts
& thoughts & prayers, for Elsie
& I feel deeply for you. Only
those who have ever lost a
son can really know what
it means, for whether it is
years or only days, the love
is the same.

May the God whom we love &
trust give you strength & peace.

My love to you ever & ever
deep, deep sympathy,

Polly Dodge.

There must be a reason or
an all-wise & loving Father
who gives would not take of
his own were it not in His
plan for us. He who took
his own Son in the prime of
his young manhood has
shown us the way to faith.
"how we see through a glass
darkly", but some day we
shall understand.

Ellen Chase's new book "Mary Peters" —
just as charming as her "Godly Her-
itage" last year. It is full of lines like
these — making me think the more of you:

“ — she whose life had been so largely
spent in the inevitable drift of great forces,
outside one's decision, independent of one's
desires” — she had always trusted to time
to right things — “people could never know
happiness until they knew pain as well —
that life was like that” — its hell down
with everything that's tough and hard about
it. No only the sails and the glow ^{at} them that
will remember. That doesn't go out” —

“ — as the sun is apprehended only by the
light of the sun and as God is the only
approach to Himself.”

No one I know lives closer to God
every day than you do and therefore has
deeper resources both within herself and
in the Eternal. In meeting both life's

every-day-ness and its greatest stresses you
are our constant inspiration and pattern
— and we love you for it. "To whom
much is given —" Oh may God's
richest blessings somehow be yours and
your loved ones' during these hard days.
Yours always affectionately,
Patt D.

Sunday Evening

~~cut~~

Dear dear Mrs. Speer —

One hesitates to burden you
with more words. Yet I cannot resist
wanting to tell you how nearly constantly
you have been in my thought and prayers.
I hope you know.

Today I have been reading Mary

Dear Dr. ^{and} Mrs. Speer:

All day my heart
has been reaching out to
you, and heart's deepest
sympathy I send.

The morning mail
brought a letter from Glaister
dated September 16. and in
it a clipping from the Herald
Tribune. I have sent it
on to Louise.

Glaister said; "I'd like

to send Mrs Speer a letter
of sympathy, but perhaps
I'd better not". He knew
you would, be overwhelmed
with messages, and I too
feel hesitant to add
another. Please accept
his love with mine to the
family, but especially to
you two dear friends.

Faithfully

Erema Ely (Duck)

Baiko Jo Sakurai
Shimonoseki, Japan,
October 10/39

Ans
Sept 27

Sept 17th
1934

ONE LLOYD ROAD
MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY

My dear Dr & Mrs. Spear:-

We have coopt with
you in the unbelieve
sorrow, and unite
as thousands will,
just to tell you of
our affection and

sympathy

Eda Lind

Benjamin Garrison

Annaret

Rev. Mr. D. W.

108 W. State St.
Trenton.

My Dear Dr and Mrs Speer-

Love — Sympathy and Intercession
for one of the darkest tragedies
and deepest mysteries I have ever
known.

What can I say?

"Be still, and know that I am
God".

One day it will be clear and
more than clear.

God give you grace to patiently
wait until that day comes.

My sister who is writing this
letter for me will also send you
you a message of cheer.

Most sincerely your friend

John Dixon

over

Dear Dr & Mrs Speer -

My mother suggests that I send a
little, and what I feel you will
want to know is something more
definite - or him - f.

We do not feel that he is
improving, even a little bit.
He eats so little and - grows
less.

Last night, when asked how he
felt, replied: "very weak"
and this morning - said - "No stronger."
Suffers at times some very acute
neuralgia pains which the electric
aid helps.

Takes a short walk from one room
to another with two people, almost
every day but - stand alone.
Is very pleased to see his friends
any time after 11 o'clock a-m,

My message to you and yours.
Praying you may be, one from
our Heavenly Father -

"He healeth the broken in heart,
and bindeth up their wounds."

Psa, 147-3.

With prayer and sympathy
Margaret Dixon

September 19th

act 1

345 EAST 50TH STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Sept. 21, 1934

My dear Mrs. Speer:-

I've tried and tried to write
you this last week, and to think
of something to do or to say that
might help ever so little. Where
I think of all you have done
for so many of us and all that

You and Mr. Speer have meant
to me and to hosts of others, it
seems as if some way there should
be something to do for you in
this time of your great sorrow.

I can join with the multitude of
friends who continue in prayer that
comfort and peace may be yours.
With a heart full of deepest sympathy
and affection - I am most lovingly yours
Edith K. Hall.

on

Dear D and Mrs Spear:

I just want to tell you that for you
and all the dear ones my
prayerful sympathy is sent
out. I know how tenderly near
the Lord is to each one -
and you will be comforted -

Affectionately yours.

Ellen E. Dresher -

656 Kingway Vancouver B.C. Canada.
Oct 15 - 1934

ack.

HARVARD CLUB
27 WEST 44TH STREET

Dear Aunt Emma: you have received hundreds of letters but I do want to write too. I've & tried to get information in time to attend yesterday's service, but Mr. Rob's secretary was not sure of the time & by the time I got Mr. Rulph's it was too late. I called mama again & she asked us to drive out to Englewood in the afternoon. But I just couldn't, it seemed to me that all you could be writing would be to be by yourself for a little while.

We are living in a world of false values and this fact was responsible for Elliott's death.

But how incomprehensible that
this world demanded its toll of
one whose values were true and
whose help it so sorely needed.

I've and I send you all our
love and to Uncle Rob, too. It
is a long road back to Big Dia-
mond's Little Diamond isn't it,
I know that Elliott filled that
road as full of life and light
as any man possibly could have.

Your loving godson
Ramsdell

9/18/34

109 Grand Ave.
Englewood N.J.

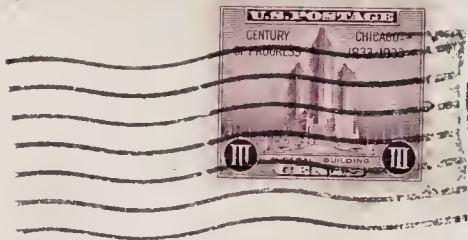
Dear Mrs. Speer -

I want you to know
that my thoughts and
prayers have been and
are with you and Mr.
Speer - I know you are
holding your daily life
under the quiet light of
eternity - and listening to
the voice of the eternal
above the roar of the

transitory. We believe
in Christ!

Lovingly,

Flourence B. Dodge



Mrs. Robert E. Speer

~~24 Grauman Park~~

~~New York City~~

Lakeville
Conn

~~New York~~

E. Doll
1441 Logan St
Denver
Colo



add.

Sept 16. 34

Dear Emma & Robert,

I was so shocked
to read in our evening
papers of the death of
Elliott. My deepest sym-
pathy to you both.

It just seems impos-
sible for such a thing
to happen to your fine

but we can look to Him,
for comfort, strength and
wisdom in our sorrows.

My love and prayers
go out to you all in this
deep sorrow.

affectionately,

Esther.

son, and in the place
he was living and the
splendid work he was
doing. I know what it
must mean to you
both.

I'm glad Holly's father
and mother were with
her, for the help and
comfort they could be

We cannot under-
stand these things

add.

Mr. Meedy & Detweiler,

21 NORTH FRONT STREET
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Dear Dr. ^{and} Mrs. Speer -

It is with great regret that
I have heard of your bereavement
and I want to express to you my
deep sympathy in your sorrow.

With the love of

Yours most sincerely

Bertha Detweiler.

Sept. 17" 1934.

1 Aug 21 - My dears love to you all - Emily Sturges

acta. / Sept 22nd Lueque L.I

Emma dear -

I do not know how
or what to write you -
is all too terribly - too
heart breaking! Frederick
and I are just crushed
ourselves that you two wonderful
people, and all your dear
ones, should have to suffer
in this way! I feel I
must just send you this
brief note to let you know
that Elliot's sudden death
means more to us - than
just a death notice! We
both knew & loved yours
& Bob's eldest son from
baby hood up - and I assure
you - I miss almost daily &
am carrying you close to my heart
in prayers and constant

Mrs. Frederick Smyth Duncan

311 Walnut Street

Feb 3-0172

Englewood, N.J.

JULIA SILVERS DUNHAM · THREE SIXTY-FIVE WEST STATE STREET · TRENTON, N. J.

Mr. E. W. D.

Dear Mrs. Sperry: -

In my dark days I have felt that the prayers of those who love us help us through the times when we can scarcely pray for ourselves. -

So I am asking the Father, our Father in

Heaven to make His
presence the realst thing
in your life today: — to
let His comfort, — yep,
even His grace get
thru to you and your
loved ones in all this
mystery and misery. —
I am sure He can. —

With my love
Julio Silver Lingham.

Uncle. —

Sept. 23 - 1934. —

ack.
Oct. 12

DUBLIN ROAD
GREENWICH, CONNECTICUT

Dear Mr. Spurr:-
On my return from
abroad yesterday I learned
through my friend of
the tragic death of
your beloved son.
Words fail me to
express my sympathy
for you and Mrs. Spurr
in such an overwhelming
reversal.

my loving thoughts
and prayers are
yours.
Hart B. Darrow

October 11, 1934

571

September 16, 1934.

My dear Mr. and Mrs. Speer,

My loving understanding sympathy is with you. I thank God for every remembrance of your experience of Our Father and our Saviour. No want of peace shall you know.

What a glorious Sabbath this has been for your

Dear son - with Christ, crowned
and glorified by His presence -
"flooded with Knowledge and
drenched with His light."

There is just one heart
in all the family at "156"
and it beats with love
for you all.

Faithfully yours,

May Kerr Ingrid.

57

Dr. Robert Elliott Spear
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City.

Our good Dr. Spear -

Do you recall ~~that~~ Joseph
Conrad in one of his intimate
letters to one of his closest
friends ^{note} said that he did
not fear death - that it
did not seem to him a
sad or tragic thing, but
that to him the great tragic
thing in life was to lose
a friend by death? Surely
we who have gone through
a life experience are
keenly able to understand
just what Conrad meant.

When one misses out of
his life a particularly
companionable son - what
tragedy! ÷ Deeply do your
friends understand just
what that means to you.
May yours be a radiant
sorrow in the memory
of so glowing a compan-
ionship, as the Christ
shines his peace upon
your bruised heart.

Affectionately -

Seth Russell Downie

4 R. R. # 7

Gettysburg, Pa.

Sept. 1924
#19th #

My very dear friends,

I know that the
God of all comfort is
with you.

Affectionately,

Leila Ellen Dimock
(Mrs. A.W.)

512 Jefferson Ave.
Chicago, Ill.

September seventeenth

MARY SHEPARD DOUGHERTY
55 PIERREPONT STREET
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

816

My dear Mr. and Mrs. Speer:-

I just want

you to know I am thinking of you and
loving you and praying for you - I
thank God for you both - because you
are such a fine splendid man to the
world - and very faithful to your trust -

I have been looking over the pictures

I have known Elliott since he was four years
old - and can recall so many delightful
incidents connected with him in Camp. -

and the last happy good-bye at Fort Hermon
when I went to take dinner with them
all -

I thank God for all
the happy memories of him - and pray
that your memoirs may bring you comfort

with the love and deep sympathy

Minnie S. Dougherty -

September 10, 1904

57
RICHARD J. DOSKER
15 ALDRED AVENUE
ROCKVILLE CENTER, N. Y.

September, 23/34.

My dear Dr. Speer:

Our hearts are burdened for you and yours in the great grief which has so recently come upon you in the untimely and tragic passing of your son Elliott.

Our family prayer circle has joined with others of your friends around the world in asking that consolation, such as can come from God alone, may sustain you all in this hour of your great loss.

Very sincerely yours,

R. J. Dosker

677

4 GODFREY ROAD
UPPER MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY

Dear Mr. Sherrill. Dear! -

Words are such
feeble means with which
to express our feelings
these days. We have all
been so stricken over
this incredible tragedy
that it is hard to say
anything.

In our beautiful service
at the Board Rooms on
Saturday Mr. M^r Ape
spoke of the great wall
of prayer that there
was around you, and
of which you would be
conscious. And this
is what we fall back
on for you, when every-

4 GODFREY ROAD
UPPER MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY

Anything else leaves me
dumb and helpless.

We are thankful
for Elliott's radiant
life, which will go
right on in the lives
of the boys he has
touched. All those who
are there ^{now} cannot but be

rejoiced and deepened
in a peculiar way
because of this that
happened.

But I cannot even
bear to think of the
three children.

Very sincerely
Wm. Wood.

027

4 GODFREY ROAD
UPPER MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY

September 17, 1934

Dear Dr. ^{and} Mrs. Speer, I cannot
 say to you what so many said
 to me when Agnes gloriously
 useful life was ended at 39 —
 that it was "the will of God."
 I could only say — "This was not
 his will. His will is becoming.
 The challenge of all eternity death,
 and tragedy and suffering is to
 make us reach the harder to
 seeing God's will on earth." The
 cause of what I have suffered
 in losing her, the mystery of

with deepest sympathy
Affectionately yours,
Rose Wilson Deed

You did not bury him today
It was your dream you laid away
- your dream for him of peace and joy
And useful years on life's empyrean,
His soul with high endeavor still
Deth nobler plans of life fulfill,
You did not bury him today
It was your dream you laid away.

these unimpaired lives is often
with me.

I know you must be con-
scious of the great surge of
love and compassion that is
going out of you from friends
everywhere in the world. I have
thought often of Margaret here
days - so far away from you,
of Anne & Charles. Katharine Wells
- was my class-mate atassar.
So I know, Pannie too. I never
saw Elliott - but recently
I have heard so much about
him through John and Ed
Mason, sons of Jack Mason
of Shikarabad! One could see
how truly they thought of
Elliott - as their best friend.

57

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OREGON SHORT LINE RAILROAD CO.
LOS ANGELES & SALT LAKE RAILROAD CO.

THE ST. JOSEPH AND GRAND ISLAND RAILWAY CO.

Dear Dr. Spear:

EN ROUTE

9/24/34

I want to tell you how much you & Mrs. Spear have been in my thoughts & prayers in these latter days. Since returning from South America, I've been in New York only a few days and have had no opportunity to drop over to see you.

I realize that feeble words of mine can bring little or no comfort to you but I do assure you that I have constantly asked our loving Heavenly Father to be very near to you in strength and grace & power.

I never knew Elliot or his family. I only remember of having seen him once as a boy, but that does not lessen my deep sorrow & regret that such a tragedy should have happened to your family, or, for that matter, to any one's family.

Once, you told us students at Lake Geneva, 35 years ago, in times of great sorrow & trouble, to Remember Jesus Christ. What a tower of strength He is!

As ever,

Yours,
Wm. Duffendrey

017

CHARLES E. DUNN
23 SUNDERLAND AVENUE
RUTHERFORD, NEW JERSEY

24th September, 1934

My dear Dr. Speer-

Of course all Princeton men grieve with you in this sad bereavement that has so suddenly and inexplicably come upon you and yours.

While I never met Elliott personally, I heard him speak on one occasion at a state meeting of our Congregational Churches held a few years ago in Worcester.

Words seem futile at such a time, but I thought it might be a comfort to you to know that I am thinking of you.

Perhaps the best use of sorrow is to make it an occasion for gallantry. We must be brave under the buffets of fate, and use our dark hours as a vocation carrying solemn responsibilities. Then some fine day, in God's Providence, we shall be able to say with the psalmist: "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."

I have not forgotten your visits to Princeton when I was an undergraduate, and the inspiration of your words then and since.

Sympathetically, *Charles E. Dunn*

Rutherford Congregational Church

57

RIVERDALE AVENUE AND 248 STREET
RIVERDALE-ON-HUDSON
NEW YORK CITY

September 21, 1934.

My dear Mr. Speer:

Mr. Duff and

I wish to convey our deepest sympathies
~~to~~ Mr. Speer and yourself in
this tragic death of Alvin, so
sudden and so mysterious. We
grieve for you and his
family and the school.

No words of ours can do more
than bring our sorrow
and loss. He lived, while he
lived, a life of great usefulness
and in his death a vast
host took him into their
hearts. May God comfort you

Sincerely yours,

Wm. Duff.

57

J. AMBROSE DUNKEL
INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

Dr & Mrs Robert E. Speer,
156 5th Ave,
Day City.

Mr Dunkel & I wish
to extend to you our
deepest sympathy, in the
sad hour that has come
to you. We wonder why,
but our faith & trust must
carry us in such an
hour. We know your Lord
you have served so long &
well.
yours
Mr & Mrs J. Dunkel

With deepest sympathy
for

Mrs. Edmund John Drummond

Sept 16

Elliot 2009

G. B. P. S. Westman

Sunday

September 16.

Four o'clock.

And I am thinking to you-ward, dear Emma, and longing for "the Peace that passeth all understanding" - that Peace you are always enviroined withal and so well know, to conquer the unbearable pain of so inexplicable an end to the beautiful living, in this world, of so gallant a youth. One cannot know, however, how far-reaching, how continual is the influence he has already put forth toward making life worth living in the youths who have known him. "A Gentleman unafraid!" - and

You have possibly heard that George reached
Dorothy on September 2.nd - in good condition
despite many difficulties and dangers.
Daily expectation of a cable to say whether
or not they return to Riverdale is as yet
unsatisfied. George will feel this new
bereavement of his dear friend, his Best Man,
after the coming home to share the loss
of "Jim" Simpson and young Hugh Baker;
and to realize afresh that his Father and
Mother are gone.

Perhaps the Great Head Master has work
for the young Headmaster that only he
can do. How little we know; how im-
perative our desire to see Beyond!
With very, very much love
Sarah Truslow Dickinson.

ready for the Great Adventure—
where all turn to you for strength.

One dare venture no word to you.
You are "not so far as even to be
near the Source."

When to-morrow finds you in
Englewood, one remembers the
small, precious grave of 1906,
now to be companions by the
Big Brother, himself knowing
the fatherhood of little girls.
I scarcely know Holly and the children,
but think constantly of them,
and the possibly serious problems
added to the terrible grief—
to Patty and to Marnie one may
say one is thinking of their
sorrow in distance, — but I can-
not intrude on Holly.

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter

NM = Night Message

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

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Received at

GR51 12=NEWYORK NY SEP 15 1127A

DR AND MRS ROBERT E SPER=

:PHONE M THERMON SCHOOL NORTHFIELD MASS

=YOUR GRIEF IS OURS LOVE AND SYMPATHY TO HOLLY AND TO YOU=

:ROBERT AND SARAH DICKINSON.

1144A

*ack
ETG
Oct 15*

MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE

DAY LETTER

CLASS OF SERVICE

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WESTERN UNION (22)1

R. B. WHITE
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NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

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SIGNS

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Received at Flatiron Bldg., New York City

NBH143 23-ZA CHICAGO ILL 15 903A

1934 SEP 15 AM 10 23

DR ROBERT E SPEER=
156 FIFTH AVE=

MINUTES IN TRANSIT	
FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER

WE SEND YOU AND MRS SPEER OUR MESSAGE OF DEEPEST SYMPATHY OVER
THE TERRIBLE LOSS THAT HAS COME TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY=
DETWEILER AND REID.

CLASS OF SERVICE

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WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

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LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at

GR61 12=TDBSV QUOGUE NY SEP 16 1208P

DR AND MRS ROBERT SPEER=

METHERMON MASS=

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY AND HEARTFELT LOVE GO OUT TO YOU AND
YOURS=

EMILY AND FREDERICK DUNCAN.

151P

MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER

018

Dear Dr. ^{and} Mrs. Speer:

Mrs. Donohugh and I
have been impressibly grieved by
the great sorrow which has come
to you. We want you to know that
we sympathize with you most keenly
and that we unite with your
countless friends everywhere in
prayer for sustaining grace and
the abiding presence of the Holy
Comforter to meet your every need.

Affectionately yours.

Thos. Donohugh

23 Midland Ave
White Plains.

September, 1934.

918



THE LESSON ROUND TABLE

The International Lessons Linked to Life by
The World's Religious Leaders

RICHARD D. DODGE, Editor

Ocala, Fla.
Miami.

Bx 1537

Sept. 22, 1934-

SOME FORMER CONTRIBUTORS

- JAMES MOFFATT
- JOHN TIMOTHY STONE
- BURRIS JENKINS
- JAMES L. GORDON
- WILLIAM L. STIDGER
- A. W. BEAVEN
- ERNEST F. TITTLE
- JAMES I. VANCE
- ROBERT FREEMAN
- FRANCIS J. M'CONNELL
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- J. ROSS STEVENSON
- CHARLES L. GOODELL
- WILLIAM A. HARPER
- WALTER L. LINGLE

Dr. Robt. E. Speer,
New York City.

My dear Dr. Speer:

I wish to express to you and Mrs. Speer the sincere sympathy of both Mrs. Dodge and myself in your bereavement. We know full well, of course, that your constant nearness to the Master brings you all the comfort and grace which you need at such a time, but we would also have you know that we, with the millions whom you have helped and to whom you have been a tower of strength and source of inspiration, remember you at the throne of grace.

May that peace which indeed paceth all human understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus in the passing of your dear day.

Sincerely your friend,
Richard D. Dodge

1436 Warner Ave.,
Chicago, ILL.

Oct. 7, 1934.

Dr. R.E. Speer,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City,
N.Y.

Dear Doctor:

Since the tragic death of your son in Northfield, you have been constantly in our thoughts. Both Judith and myself are daily praying for you and for Mrs. Speer so that our heavenly father may sustain and comfort you in this great bereavement taken place in your family. May God spare your life to serve the cause of the foreign missions for many years to come.

With the best of wishes, I remain,

Respectfully Yours,

Jacob Donid

"Kasha Yacob"

and 65.

THE HUNTINGDON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ORGANIZED 1789

ELDERS

J. S. WOODS, TREASURER
ROBERTS ROYER, CLERK
C. H. SWIGART
R. M. NEWCOMBE
S. C. POSTLETHWAITE

FIFTH AND MIFFLIN STREETS

REV. R. P. DAUBENSPECK, D. D., MINISTER

ELDERS

WILLIAM R. BANKS
FORREST JACKSON
CHARLES E. HORTON
WARREN B. SIMPSON
T. S. BRATTON

Huntingdon, Pa. Sunday, Sept 16 1934

Dr. Robert E Speer
Englewood
N.J.

My Dear Dr. Speer:-

We were all shocked on receiving news of your son, Elliott, s death. Many are the expressions of sympathy one hears from your friends in this community.

At the morning service to-day, by action of the congregation, I was requested to convey to you and Mrs Speer, and through you to your son, s wife and children, the sympathy and good wishes of "The Old Home Church".

This is one of the many mysteries we face in life. Why do such things have to be? We wonder, sometimes, what we would do at such times, were it not for the assurance we have of a coming time, when we shall understand those things which are now so much of a mystery to us.

My prayer is that God will bless and comfort you and Mrs Speer, the widowed wife and the orphaned children, and all who have been touched and saddened by your son, s tragic death.

Sincerely Yours

R. P. Daubenspeck

018

REID STUART DICKSON
WITHERSPOON BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA

September fifteenth,
1934

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
Board of Foreign Missions,
156 Fifth Ave., New York.

Dear Dr. Speer:

The news of the awful tragedy of the loss of your boy Elliott, has just this moment reached me. My heart went out to you with deep and loyal affection, and I want you to have this word of personal and very deep sympathy.

As you know, I loved Elliott, and always rejoiced in every contact with the boy. Our time together overseas during the War brought me very close to him, and I have always heard with deep interest any account of his work and ministry in the years that followed. I know none of the details of this terrible tragedy, but I only know that your heart is torn and bleeding, and I want you to have this word from a loyal friend.

Your life and ministry have been such an inspiration to thousands of young and old through the years of your ministry to Christ and the Church that no one needs to recall to you the great things of our Faith, or to bring to you the assurances of God's comfort and His faithful promises. That you may be given strength to endure is my earnest prayer. The hearts of those whom you have helped so often will turn to you in this hour of your own distress. May Our Heavenly Father richly bless you.

With deep and sincere sympathy,

Your friend,

Reid

578

2750 MARIN AVENUE
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

Sept. 16, 1934.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Robert.

I saw in the daily press the statement about the death of Rev. Elliot Speer, but had no idea it concerned a son of yours till Stanley Hunter made mention of it in the pulpit this morning.

Words are easily spoken, at times, and yet I know that the knowledge that friends are thinking of, and their hearts going out in sympathy to one in sorrow, does help somewhat to lift the burden.

So I send you just this note, and ask you not to tax yourself to answer, as I know you are receiving messages from hosts of friends:

Most sincerely and sympathetically yours,

Kath I. Dobbin

608

THE BISHOP'S HOUSE
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Dear Dr. Sperry-

For more than thirty years I've looked up
to you and been glad in the inspiration which
your words as well as your life have given me.
As I try this week to carry on my work you
and your family keep coming to my mind. May
God keep you and hold you.

Affectionately

John T. Dallas.

19 September 1934-

158 So. Avenue 57, Los Angeles
Calif.

September 27th 1934

513
Dr. Robert E. Speer
156 Fifth Avenue, New York;

My dear Mr. Speer:

Until I read The Presbyterian I did not know that Rev. Elliott Speer was your son and that is your family's sorrow that we share.

It is you who so long have given your help and sympathy to us, whose son has been taken up to heaven. Paul says the God of all comfort comforts us that we may be able to comfort others. Is it possible that my experiences may be of help to others?

Since my return to America in 1930, my oldest and my youngest sister, the last of five brothers, my beloved Chinese friend Margaret Chan, and Dr. Mary Viles, my companion for three decades, and her brothers have all left me and are in heaven. At first these empty places made life seem poorer to me but it is not so now. As I think of them my thoughts are associated with the riches and beauty of holiness and the glorious life they are sharing in heaven. The special days that we used to observe are still joyous events here and perhaps are remembered there.

You need no words from us. Our Lord has spoken to you and you are listening to His voice. I only want you to know that we ask for you the continual comfort of God. Please do not reply.

Sincerely yours,

Suey Durham.

074

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
KOKOMO, INDIANA

September 17, 1934.

HURD ALLYN DRAKE, PASTOR

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
158 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

My Dear Doctor Speer:

My secretary, Miss Clark, just brought me word of the news contained in yesterday's public press about the sudden call that had come to your son, Elliott, at Northfield.

Words fail to express the sorrow we feel at this tragic news. I can not adequately express the sympathy we feel for you and Mrs. Speer and all other members of the family; but I want you to know that our hearts are with you and that we shall be praying earnestly that the good grace of God which you have so powerfully commended to others, may in this crisis prove exceeding abundant, more than you can ask or think. Mrs. Drake joins me in these desires for God's blessing and help to be with you.

Fraternally,

Hurd Allyn Drake

HAD:C

017

JOHN H. DEWITT
JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS OF TENNESSEE
NASHVILLE

September 16, 1934.

My dear Dr. Speer, -

We are shocked and distressed over the terrible sorrow that has come to you. I am sure that your innumerable friends everywhere are, like us here, full of sorrow and sympathy.

We think of you and the members of your family with a most sympathetic emotion in these hours of your great distress. Your faith and Christian fortitude are surpassingly great - yet we shall pray for strength and comfort for you all.

Sincerely,

John H. DeWitt

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The Rev. Paul de Schweinitz, D.D., (1898)
Treasurer.

THE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED BRETHREN
FOR PROPAGATING THE GOSPEL
AMONG THE HEATHEN

Organized 1745; Reorganized 1787; Incorporated 1788

(The incorporated missionary society of the Moravian Church in America)

The oldest incorporated Protestant Foreign Missionary Society
in the United States

Incorporated by the Act of the Legislature of Pennsylvania
~~17~~ Wednesday, February 27th, 1788.

THE TREASURER'S OFFICE:
67 WEST CHURCH STREET,
BETHLEHEM, PA.,
U. S. A.

Telephone:
BETHLEHEM 831

Treasurer of Missions:
PAUL DE SCHWEINITZ, D.D., (1898)

September 15th, 1934.

My dear Dr. & Mrs Speer:-

Words fail me to express the horror with which Mrs. de S. and I read the dreadful news in tonight's paper of the heartless murder of your son, and our hearts go out to you in tenderest sympathy, and tho we know her not, especially to the young widow and the three dear little children. How fortunate it is, that Mrs. Speer's parents are with her to sustain her in this awful blow.

It must have been the deed of some madman, for it seems impossible to explain it in any other way.

I know that you have all the comfort and strength that come from your Christian faith, so I need ^{not} attempt to write any words of comfort, and all that I wish to do is to attempt even in this imperfect way to tell ^{you} how our thoughts are with you, and to let you know the depth of our sympathy.

We did not know your son, but a very good friend of one our grandsons is a student at Mt. Hermon, and he thought all the world of Mr. Elliot Speer. I am sure he must have been beloved by all his pupils.

My wife and I are thinking much of those three little children. Our youngest child is Louise, and she is 37. Your son, the paper says, was 35. Louise has four little girls, so the presumption is, that your grandchildren are even younger than our Louise's children, and we can picture so keenly, what this must mean to young Mrs. Speer and ~~xxxxxx~~ these little children.

When Helena lost her husband she was left with four children ^{she} ranging from 6 to 13 years, but her husband died from disease, and ~~she~~ had none of the horror, that has befallen your daughter-in-law.

All these things enable us to enter at least in some degree into your sorrow, and we yearn to have you feel the sympathy, that we have with you.

We spoke of Dr. Speer on his birthday on September 10th, and little did we dream that such a sorrow was to come upon him.

~~RE~~ May our dear Lord uphold you and young Mrs. Speer, and believe me most sympathetically and affectionately yours,

Paul de Schweinitz

You of course know, that this is not a dictated letter. I do all my own typing. My own handwriting is almost illegible, I am sorry to have to admit.

FRANCIS SHUNK DOWNS, D. D.
PASTOR

A. LORIN RIDINGS
ASSISTANT PASTOR

ROBERT W. MACDONALD
CLERK OF SESSION

The First Presbyterian Church

of Berkeley, California

DANA STREET AT CHANNING WAY

MARGARET W. DONALDSON
SECRETARY

THE CHURCH OFFICE
2407 DANA STREET

Personal

September 21, 1934

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
Board of Foreign Missions,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, N. Y.

My dear, dear Dr. Speer:

It is just impossible for me to tell you how shocked and grieved I was to hear of Elliot's death. My heart went out to you with great sympathy and longing and I wish that I could have come to you and stood by during these days of sorrow and loss. Know that you and your loved ones are being remembered much at the throne of grace. May ^{the} God of all Comfort be your present portion and in the midst of this trial may the Son of God, your Saviour Friend, be with you moment by moment.

A wealth of sympathy and prayer is going up for you and yours from your many friends here in First Church and Berkeley. How I wish I could be of some help.

With much love, I am

Ever affectionately yours,

Francis

FRANCIS SHUNK DOWNS

FSD:MWD

Via AIR MAIL

Ans Oct 3, '34

114 E. 90th St.
New York.

Oct. 3, '34.

Frankie,

Thanks for your dear note which we all appreciated so deeply. You have all been so wonderfully calm and sweetly and Christianly submissive in the presence of this unbelievable experience and vital change. Yes it makes the world unreal.

I can't begin to tell you how, not only the whole Christian group envelope you with their love and warming prayers, but all kinds of people speak to me about you - garage men, brokers, office people, elevator boys, bankers

who from time to time have responded
to Elliott's letters, with checks,
or who know of you, or who
have had some contact with you.
What unity this all reveals.
We are helped, as we picture
you all, walking straight along
by faith. It is beautiful.

I thanked the Madison Ave. Committee
as you wished me to do. They met
to-day and now invite you
for Wed. Evening, Dec. 12th.

If you cannot accept for that date,
they would like to have you come
for Wed. Dec. 5th.

As for the Subject: they took
a slightly different slant -

Sheet #2:

"Results I have seen in For. Mission work".

When they got on that line, I thought at once of your address before the Quill Club when you told us intimately of what it had meant in your own life, to have been connected with foreign missions. What the govt enterprise is, into which you had tried to build your life (instead of going into the law). Do you remember? It was wonderfully fine & would be enticing to young people.

Anyhow we can fix up a
subject if you are free to
come.

I rather think people are
ready to hear what it is the
world needs.

Ever affectionately,
Dwight H. D.

6m
45.7.34

GEORGE D. DAYTON
MINNEAPOLIS

Sept. 17,
1934.

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer:

What can I say -- except that I love you and am sorry, so sorry, this experience has come to you. God help you, is my prayer.

Multitudes all over the United States are offering the same petition and you will be comforted by the knowledge we are sympathetic -- even though we cannot otherwise help in any way. How helpless we humans are!

My heart also goes out to the wife, whom I do not know.

I am sure God will be very near to you all -- He loves you dearly.

Fraternally,

GDD-T

Geo. D. Dayton

Dr. and Mrs. R. E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

The Washington Federation of Churches
 503 McLachlen Building
 10th and G Streets Northwest
 Washington, D. C.

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 Telephone District 5160

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 YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK, Mrs. L. C. Greene

Oct. 2, 1934

My Dear Dr. Speer: During recent week I am sure you have received hundreds of letters. Let me add one more, for I want to assure you of my sympathy in your sore bereavement.

During August I spent a week at Northfield and saw Elliott every day. Sometimes we had brief chats about some matter of common interest. So I was greatly shocked to learn of his death and read the articles in the paper daily hoping that some clue regarding the murderer would be found.

My wife and I were grieved beyond expression and cannot imagine what motive prompted the act - it seems so horrible. You and Mrs. Speer have our daily prayers for God's comfort in your sorrow and irreparable loss. We know that the grace of Christ will sustain you in these terribly trying days.

Very truly yours,
 W. L. Darby

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DARRAGH DE LANCEY
52 PINE STREET
WATERBURY, CONNECTICUT

Sept 17/34

My dear, dear Bob,

May Mrs. DeLancey & I hasten to extend to you & Mrs. Speer - and to your son's family, our deepest sympathy in this grim tragedy that has come into your lives. And in saying this - we do so understandingly - for we too know the depths of such sorrow. My dear Friend, we know, too, how futile words - mere words - are at a time like this - but as we found in our own grief - it may help you all to know that you are much in the thoughts of your friends & that their affection goes out to you all.

How little we know what is in store for us. How little did we dream - at that happy evening we spent together in New York - that only too soon the dark shadow was to fall across your lives - then so bright & tranquil. God give us strength to bear the load that is put upon us. With deep & sympathetic understanding, I am, as always,

Affectionately your friend & classmate
Darragh DeLancey

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Water Mill - L.I.

15 September 1834

My dear Dr. Speer -

News of the strange
and crushing sorrow which
has so suddenly come to you
distresses me greatly - You
and your wife have my
beautiful sympathy and prayers -

Cordially -

Howard Tappan -

THE NAHUATL INDIAN MISSION

(A. R. PRESBYTERIAN)

SUSTAINED BY PRAYER

PRAY YE THE LORD OF THE HARVEST THAT HE WILL SEND MORE LABORERS INTO HIS HARVEST. (MATH. 9:38.)

REV. J. G. DALE D. D. DIRECTOR.

Tamazunchale, S. L. P., México,

9-25

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The Nahuatl tribe is the second largest Indian tribe in the world, with a population of 517,000 souls (Gov. census.)

Ours is the only gospel agency seeking to evangelize them. (L. L. Legters.)

The Mexican Gov. is building a highway through this tribe. Thus God is leading the way. Shall we not go in to possess the land?

Our Supremo Need-Prayer.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will send us men to be trained as bible evangelists.

Pray that funds may be sent us for their support.

Pray for a mighty revival in this great tribe.

Would you like to receive our news letters about this Indian work, send your name and address to Mr. E. D. Ellis Lake Wales, Florida.

He wondered that there was no intercessor.—Is. 59:16.

Will you not be for us a helper by prayer? Cor. I:11.



Dr. E. Speer

New York NY USA

Dear Dr. Speer.

Word has just come to

us Springing the very

last news of the sud-

den home joining of your

son Elliott. I shall not

try to send you words

of comfort. For better than

I you know how to

draw near to the great

under loving heart of
our Savior and receive

the sweet comfort that His grace
alone can bring to our wounded
souls. Oh well, ah oh well for all
these years you have been
letting us all love to draw from
His sustaining grace. I'm sure
It is from you the oil of joy for
mourning and the garment of
praise for the spirit of heaviness.
For better than I can tell you, you
know what a wonderful service
It is but my dear brother I do want
you to know that my heart aches
for you and that I am praying
much for you often and yourself.
This is the most affectionate love I can
give to the man who has been of
very great help to me.
The Lord Comfort you both. Faithfully
J. G. Dale

Edward H. Dickinson

12/5

The Manse
Millerton, N. Y.
Oct. 31, 1934

Dr. Robert E. Speer
The Board of Foreign Missions
156 Fifth Ave.
New York City

Dear Dr. Speer:

Mr. John R. Thompson, Jr. of Amenia is the most influential man in the Amenia church, and, if not chairman of the pulpit committee, is certainly the one to whom you should write. The Rev. Benjamin Bentley, recently graduated from Yale and pastor of the South Amenia church, is moderator of the session. I will also endeavor to put in a good word for Mr. Marker.

And may I add a personal word? After these many days Marjory and I would express to you and Mrs. Speer our sincere sympathy. What we would say is so inadequate, but at least we can let you know that we are feeling with you. There is gratitude mingled with that feeling for having known Elliot. Marjory had to leave for the hospital at the time of the tragedy. When she had returned home quite recovered we went over to Lakeville to call only to discover that you had left for the city. I realize full well that it would have been you and Mrs. Speer strengthening us, but we would have sought, what this tardy note attempts, to put our earnest meaning into the grasp of the hand.

Our kindest regards to Mrs. Speer and yourself.

Most sincerely yours

Edward H. Dickinson